

FREE RETURN EUROSTAR TICKET
TOKEN 10, PAGE 14

CARLING'S GREAT ESCAPE

Rob Andrew on the man they couldn't sack
PAGE 48



WIN A LUXURY TOUR OF THE MIDDLE EAST

PREMIUM LINE ENTRY
PAGE 49



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APPOINTMENTS 28 PAGES
SECTION 2

New search law to tackle knives

Police given more powers against gangs

By RICHARD FORD, JAMES LANDALE AND JOANNA BALE

POLICE are to be given new stop-and-search powers to crack down on gangs that carry knives as part of the Government's drive to destroy the culture of violence.

Michael Howard announced his proposals last night after meeting opposition spokesmen and talking to Frances Lawrence, who launched her personal crusade for action in *The Times* last month after a youth was convicted of stabbing her headmaster husband to death outside his school.

Mr Howard intends to allow police to stop anyone they believe to be a member of a gang known to carry knives or other offensive weapons. At present they can apprehend people only if they have a reasonable suspicion that they have a weapon. "This will provide great help to the police in tackling the problem of knives on the street," he said.

Mr Howard also plans to launch a nationwide publicity campaign to remind people of existing and imminent laws on carrying knives, and the Advertising Standards Authority is to introduce spot checks on advertisements featuring knives and guns as part of an effort to reinforce its rules against provoking violence or antisocial behaviour.

The Home Secretary will also have further talks with Labour and the Liberal Democrats about outlawing combat knives. Mr Howard has said that difficulty in framing a legal definition has prevented him bringing forward such legislation, but the opposition parties believe that they are close to a workable draft which would avoid the need for a definition. The idea is to ban all knives and then exempt those used in the kitchen or for particular crafts, sports, industrial or trade purposes.



Frances Lawrence: "Rid streets of ugly weapons"

If the draft is agreed next week, it will go forward as a private member's Bill, sponsored by the Labour MP Jimmy Wray, who came first in the ballot for the right to introduce backbench legislation. Jack Straw, Labour's home affairs spokesman, who hopes the Government will take over and introduce the legislation, said: "We believe we are very close to achieving a workable change in the law. We want to see these combat knives taken out of circulation, their sale banned, as well as their marketing. We believe we have words to achieve that."

Alex Carlile of the Liberal Democrats added: "Every weapon you remove from the criminal armoury will reduce the number of offences of grievous bodily harm. It's as simple as that."

Both Mr Straw and Mr Carlile met Mr Howard to discuss the crackdown yesterday and afterwards Mr Straw backed the new stop-and-search powers, saying: "This is a welcome change to the police codes. It will help to deal with the kind of gangland scene which indirectly led to the tragic murder of Philip Lawrence. It is something

wanted by the police and would be widely supported by the public."

Mrs Lawrence, whose personal manifesto called for a ban on combat knives, also welcomed the initiative, although she said she did not see the need for a precise definition before steps could be taken to remove knives with names like "Rambo" and "The Vindicator" from the shops.

"I am particularly encouraged about the national publicity campaign the Government is to launch," she said. "I understand that it will be extended to schools — that seems to me excellent because it will allow young people to discuss these matters and foster a greater sense of individual responsibility."

"I am also pleased about the stop-and-search proposals. I am sure this is a worthwhile step in the process of ridding our streets of these ugly weapons. As for defining combat knives, to my mind the whole question is not about precise definitions, but about trying to find immediate and practical ways of reducing crimes with knives."

"The initiative on advertising is also welcome as a constructive step in tackling the culture of violence which those who market these knives have unfortunately promoted."

The Advertising Standards Authority said that it was issuing a reminder to publishers and advertisers to exercise particular care when accepting advertisements featuring guns and knives. It has warned the media and advertisers that nothing should appear which condones or is likely to provoke violent or antisocial behaviour, and it is to hold talks with the Patent Office about the descriptions given to certain knives.



Mr Blair wows a future voter, Charlie Baines, who has yet to develop a hairstyle, during his visit to the hospital

Blair cuts short debate on his hair

By ANDREW PIERCE AND DAMIAN WHITWORTH

LABOUR'S damage limitation exercise over allegations that Tony Blair had flattened his hair to woo women voters backfired yesterday. It only confirmed Westminster's worst kept secret: Mr Blair is going bald.

The revelation came hours after denials of a front-page report in the *Financial Times* that Mr Blair had swapped the moral high ground for the hairdresser's salon to sway the disenchanted female vote.

"Pathetic," charged one senior Labour spin doctor about reports that Mr Blair had

been advised by women Labour MPs to smooth down the bouffant. In an effort to dampen speculation, the official added: "It's the blackest day in the FT's proud history of journalism."

Alastair Campbell, Mr Blair's press secretary, went further and gagged the Labour leader's hairdresser, Maurice John Miller, of Crawford Street, London. He has been cutting and blow drying Mr Blair's trademark bouffant for ten years.

Mr Blair, who was at Great Ormond Street Hospital yesterday, accompanied by his wife, Cherie, as part of the new women-friendly strategy,

stuck to the official party line. He said: "That story is a complete mystery to me. It's nonsense. As you can see, I'm unchanged."

Not quite. The war of Blair's hair took a new twist when the spin doctors, aware that the tenuous debate might generate as many column inches as the American presidential election results, changed tack.

They issued a lighthearted statement which confirmed that the Blair thatch, likened by a leading coiffeur to a Ryvita crispbread, was shrinking. In the statement Mr Blair declared: "My problem is not changing my hair. It is keeping it."

John Major's officials could not resist a swipe at Mr Blair, who had always believed that a full head of hair was a key to impressing the electorate with his youthful vigour. One official said: "In terms of style wars, the Prime Minister's full head of hair stands up and is counted in its own right."

Charm offensive, page 5
Leading article, page 23

Tempers fly at airport baggage chaos

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of bags that should have been loaded on to British Airways international flights were stuck at Heathrow last night while their owners, thousands of miles away, turned impatiently.

A combination of faults in the German-made baggage-handling system at Terminal 4 and a row with airport workers over working arrangements for dealing with the tide of transit luggage was being blamed for the chaos.

Last night hundreds of extra baggage handlers were being drafted in to cope with the baggage mountain which at one time reached 11,000 cases high. Yesterday, the third day of disruption, at least 8,000 cases still had to be cleared. But neither BA, which said there was only a backlog of 3,500 bags, nor the airport operator, British Airports Authority, was willing to accept full responsibility.

Temper frayed as passengers had to wait for three hours for their luggage at carousels in Terminal 4. Others learnt that it might take two days before they could collect their baggage or have it sent on to their destination.

The BAA said the Siemens baggage-conveyor system had failed to work on Sunday and there were "difficulties" on Tuesday. A software fault in the automatic system, installed by the authority, meant that transit bags had to be checked manually before being loaded on to connecting aircraft. But the BAA blamed the delays at Terminal 4 on new working methods introduced by the airline.

The Transport and General Workers Union said: "We are angry that what should be the flagship terminal should be subject to these delays." It said BA and the BAA should stop blaming each other.

Tommy Lawton dies at 77

Tommy Lawton, the first English footballer to break the 10,000 transfer barrier and one of the greatest centre-forwards, died after a long illness. He was 77. Lawton's best years as a player coincided with the War, but he played 23 times for England, scoring 22 goals. Pages 25, 52

Airbus order

Airbus Industrie won the biggest civilian plane order, to sell up to 400 jets to USAir in a deal worth up to \$18 billion. The initial order is for 120 aircraft. Page 27

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Clinton welcomed back with spate of top-job resignations

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON, savouring his re-election, returned from Arkansas to a White House victory party yesterday and immediately faced a spate of resignations from the central figures of his first Administration.

Warren Christopher, the 71-year-old Secretary of State, told Mr Clinton he wished to retire after the President's inauguration in January. William Perry, the 69-year-old Defence Secretary, said he planned to return to the private sector but would stay until a successor was found.

Mickey Kantor told Mr Clinton that he wanted to step down as Commerce Secretary.

but sources said he might accept another post. Hazel O'Leary, the Energy Secretary, had also decided to resign but had little choice, having embarrassed the White House with lavish overseas trips.

Leon Panetta, the White House Chief of Staff, is determined to return to California as soon as his successor is appointed. George Stephanopoulos, the last survivor of Mr Clinton's 1992 campaign team, also intends to leave.

Mr Clinton carried 31 of the 50 states and won nearly 50 per cent of the popular vote on Tuesday, but the Republican Party retained control of Congress.

The President called his re-election a victory for the "vital centre".

He urged the Republicans to abandon the intense partisan warfare of the past two years and "put country ahead of party" by working with him. But the Republicans gave a warning that they would continue their relentless investigation of the scandals that marred his first four years.

Leading contenders to replace Mr Christopher included Madeleine Albright, the UN ambassador.

Election results, pages 18, 19
William Rees-Mogg, page 22
Leading article, page 23



School lessons

Gillian Shephard announced an unprecedented set of measures to revive The Ridings School after an inspectors' report confirmed that the school was failing. Page 6

Major warns Chirac over EMU rules

JOHN MAJOR will fly to France today to warn President Chirac against using creative accounting to achieve the strict convergence criteria for a single currency.

The Prime Minister will use the Anglo-French summit which starts tomorrow in Bordeaux to emphasise the need to stick to the rules in the Maastricht treaty.

Last week the European Commission ruled that a ploy by the French to use a one-off payment from France Telecom to cut its budget deficit was acceptable, but critics say that the transfer smacks of creative accounting.

Leading article and letters, page 23

Rural Greek Postmen see off God's Chewable Vitamin C

By JASON COWLEY

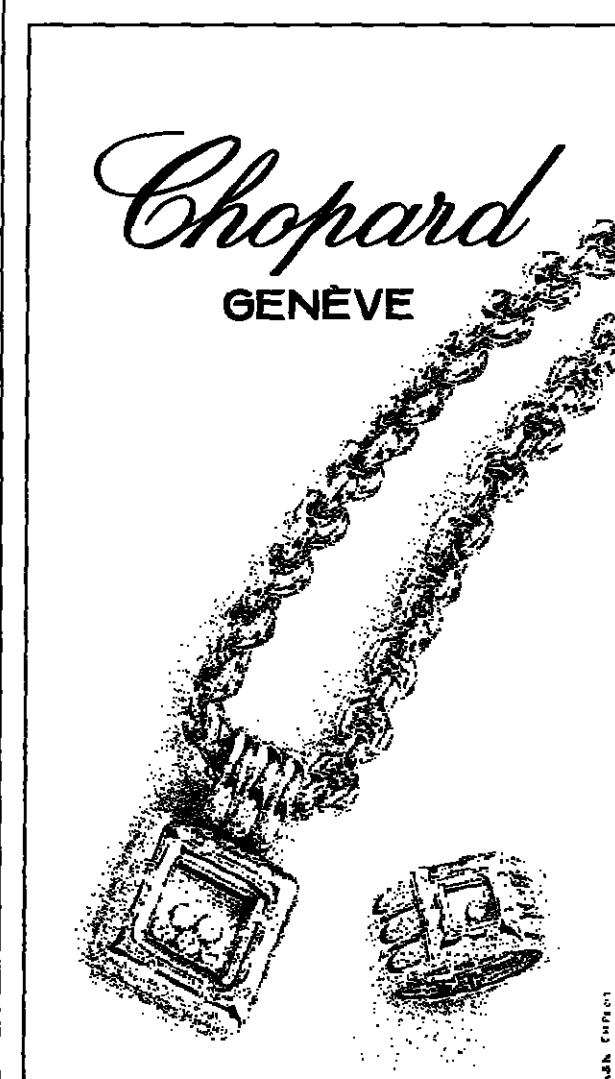
AFTER fierce debate and accusations that the judges did not read all the entries, the 1996 award for the oddest book title of the year has been won by... well, *Greek Rural Postmen and Their Cancellations Numbers*. Published by the Hellenic Philatelic Society, the winner was chosen from a possible entry of 90,000 titles, the number of books published in Britain

last year. Its rarefied appeal is likely to be limited to stamp collectors with an interest in Greek postmarks.

The Diagram Prize for the Oddest Title of the Year, established by the *Bookseller* magazine, has been running for 17 years. In a vintage crop of oddities there were many potential winners: the judges' shortlist included *God's Chewable Vitamin C* for the *Spirit* (Stardust Publishers) and *Manufacture of Domestic Appliances Not*

Elsewhere Classified (HMSO). *Old Tractors and the Men Who Love Them* (Haynes), and *Holding the Line: The Telephone in Old Order Mennonite and Amish Life* (Johns Hopkins University Press) also had their supporters. Previous winners have included *Proceedings of the Second International Workshop on Nude Mice*, *Oral Sadism and the Vegetarian Personality*, *Versailles: the View From Sweden*, *How To Avoid Huge Ships* and

Highlights in the History of Concrete. There was no award in 1987 and 1991 because of a dearth of odd titles. Horace Bent, chairman of the judges, said that true oddity could only be unintentional. "We ask ourselves, will the title one chooses still be considered odd in 10, 20, or even 50 years' time? We feel this year's winner will prove to be one of lasting worth." The winning entry earns a bottle of champagne for Clare Gilliam, who submitted it.



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European power surge kills plan to clean up on the Continent

Animated exchanges took place across the Commons floor yesterday on how and where to plug in a vacuum cleaner. The discussion was prompted by a question to industry ministers from Sir Mark Lennox-Boyd (C, Morecambe & Lonsdale) about a mysterious body called CENELEC. From the answer given by the junior minister, Richard Page, it seemed this was the inter-European cockpit for discussion of electrical matters.

Page told MPs that CENE-

LEC had decided not to harmonise plugs and sockets across the Continent. He supported the decision. It was then that Mr Page revealed an unsuspected side of his nature. He is an easygoing rightwinger in the carpet-slippers-and-Vivella-pyjamas mould; few would see him as a New Man. But there he stood, admitting it was a pity you would remain unable "to plug in your Hoover in Calais, and also in Dover".

The minister did not explain why he or anyone else would

want to plug in his Hoover in Calais and also in Dover. Many Tory MPs do expect to be looking for another job after the election, but the thought of Mr Page running some kind of cross-Channel domestic-cleaning service, lugging his Hoover on and off the Sealink ferry, surprised us.

Picture him in French maid's apron and feather duster on the Calais doorstep. *Est-ce que je puis passer l'aspirateur sur votre tapis, Madame? Où est la prise de courant? Zut alors! C'est une*

prise à deux fiches! Je suis désolé que ça ne va pas.

MPs are never happier than when debate turns to something they actually know something about. Cycling, fishing, Hoovering... such discussion being rare in our super-complicated high-tech world, it is seized on with pathetic relief. Quick to leap

up next was Labour's Denis MacShane (Rotherham). The other MPs are jealous of MacShane because he spent some years working for the International Metalworkers' Federation and living (in style, they assume) in Geneva.

They call him "the Member for Geneva Central". With his roguish grin, sharp intellect

and faintly sneering debating style, MacShane strikes the sort of fellow who might wear red braces, and cheat at croquet. "The hon gentleman lives in a cocooned world..."

drawled MacShane. "Unlike you, in Geneva," came the heckle, but MacShane persisted. European plugs and sockets should be harmonised, he said. When he travelled "with my laptop, my mobile phone and my fax machine" he was continually frustrated by non-standard

sockets. A faint hiss and scattered jeering could be heard.

Richard Page called MacShane "an elderly, jetsetting yuppie". Considering that Page is 55 and MacShane is 48, this was pretty rich. Then came an unexpected newcomer to our debate on white goods and electronics: a Sheffield lawyer, Spencer Baisie (C, Elmet). To find a lawyer at Westminster who can switch an appliance on, let alone plug it in, would be unusual, but Baisie's knowledge goes wider. "Madam Speaker," he said, "you can buy an adaptor." With this, explained Baisie, MacShane could plug in his laptop anywhere.

But what about Mr Page's cross-Channel Hoover? As we go to print, this sketchy information is that some travel-plug adaptors, being fused, might not take the current needed for vacuum cleaners.

The Speaker, being a woman, was less interested in household trivia. She seemed to entertain some crazy notion that the Commons had more important issues to address.

NHS trusts lose over £100m in VAT ruling

BY JASON NISSE

HOSPITAL trusts will lose up to £150 million after a ruling that they cannot recover VAT payments dating back more than three years.

A government pledge made in 1984 that hospital trusts which contracted out services would be able to reclaim the tax has been overruled by Customs and Excise. New regulations have limited claims for VAT recovery to a maximum of three years, and then only if claims were submitted before September 20 this year. Trusts which failed to meet the deadline will be entitled to only one year's back tax. Some hospitals have claims dating to 1984.

Chris Smith, the Shadow Health Secretary, demanded that Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, press Treasury ministers to change the ruling or offer more government money. Accountants have estimated that between £100 million and £150 million of VAT may not now be recovered by the trusts.

Bob Jones, of accountants Neville Russell, said: "This is discriminatory against many trusts which merely followed government policy and are now having to fund the costs of the VAT out of their patient care budget."

The trusts are also unhappy about the way Customs has handled the change. It made no formal announcement about reducing the cut-off date for back claims, merely writing to those trusts which had submitted claims to inform them of the ruling.

Infertility linked to rapid spread of infectious disease

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A NATIONAL screening programme to combat a rapidly spreading infectious disease that is responsible for one third of cases of infertility is to be considered by the Chief Medical Officer next week.

Sir Kenneth Calman is urgently seeking the advice of medical experts on how to deal with the sexually transmitted disease chlamydia, which affects up to one in five sexually active women in Britain. Chlamydia is often impossible to detect until it is too late, resulting in infection causing irreversible damage to the reproductive tract. It is identified at an early stage, the disease can be easily cured with a single dose of antibiotics.

In Europe, screening is commonplace and has led to a marked fall in the number of cases and in the incidence of infertility. Health experts say screening would save millions of pounds in hospital bills.

Cases of pelvic inflammatory disease have risen by 50 per cent in Britain in the last ten years - from 470 to 700 per 100,000 women at risk - but have fallen sharply in countries which have screening programmes.

Next week's meeting will consider proposals for preventing the disease with a simple screening test and one dose treatment with antibiotics. A report by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists to a meeting of

specialists in London today says Britain is out of step. Allan Templeton, Professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at Aberdeen University, who chaired the college's expert study group on the disease, said: "This is an eminently detectable, curable disease with very clear evidence that we can prevent major complications."

"It is the commonest sexually transmitted disease in Europe, way above any other. We have a modern health service in Britain to rival any in Europe but we are like Latvia when we compare what we have achieved on chlamydia."

Chlamydia is normally symptomless in women until it ascends the reproductive tract to the fallopian tubes, causing pelvic inflammatory disease.



Calman: calling urgent talks with health experts

This can result in permanent damage to the tubes, leading to infertility and ectopic pregnancy. Chlamydia also affects men, causing the sexually transmitted disease non-specific urethritis.

In Britain studies show that 3 to 10 per cent of women attending family planning clinics carry the micro-organism but the proportion rises to more than 20 per cent among those seeking abortion. A quarter of those suffer pelvic infection after the operation.

Professor Templeton said: "I suspect a high proportion of those lead to infertility. But if you screen for and treat the chlamydia you can reduce the infection rate to 4 per cent."

Professor Templeton said that new DNA-based tests have become available in the last two years which could be conducted on a urine sample and make national screening possible. The tests cost £15 but this could come down if they were bought in bulk.

In the US, the cost of treating pelvic inflammatory disease is estimated at \$10 billion (£6 billion) and many women have to undergo hysterectomy.

Peter Greenhouse, consultant gynaecologist at Ipswich Hospital, said the potential gains from screening for chlamydia were immense. In Sweden, pelvic inflammatory disease has practically disappeared.



Just the ticket: Steven Norris appears to have found an income after politics

Ex-Transport Minister plans to make a million on the buses

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

STEVEN NORRIS, the former Transport Minister, philanthropist and author appears to have found a new career on the buses. A month after his autobiography was published giving as many details of his five mistresses as his policies, Mr Norris has landed a £100,000 job as Chairman of Capital City Bus.

A couple of years ago the former Transport Minister berated public transport passengers as "dreadful human

beings" and made it clear he could not bear being cooped up with *hot polloi*.

Mr Norris, a former used car salesman, is standing down as an MP at the next election and is looking for work. Mr Norris confirmed yesterday he was having talks with the Dagenham-based Capital City Bus, which has 260 services operating in the north-east quarter of the capital from Trafalgar Square to Porters Bar. He has made it clear that he *vehemently* rejects the private sector and earn some money. "I have made a

million before and I will make it again," said Mr Norris, who first made his money from car dealerships. His appointment will have to be approved by the Cabinet, but with former ministers as senior as Douglas Hurd all finding sinews, it would be difficult for them to oppose it.

Leon Daniels, joint managing director of Capital, said he was "chuffed to bits" at gaining such a high-profile addition to the company. He said: "We rate him extremely highly."

Escape followed disorder

The six dangerous prisoners who escaped on Tuesday after hijacking a coach were, at the time, being transferred to other jails after incidents which had threatened disorder at a Suffolk prison.

They were part of a group of ten who had been identified as involved in trouble which broke out at Brixton jail near Lowestoft last week involving rival gangs. Yesterday the Prison Officers' Association condemned the decision by the Prison Service to transfer known troublemakers in a commercially hired coach rather than in a secure cellular vehicle.

Healey clash

Lord Healey of Riddlesden, the former Labour Chancellor, has advised a Blair government to allow inflation up to 10 per cent to boost growth and employment. His view, in *New Statesman*, differs from that of Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, who favours caution over spending.

No GCHQ union

The campaign to restore trade union membership at the Government's communications centre in Cheltenham suffered a setback when officials announced that the Government Communications Staff Federation had been refused independent trade union status.

Briton shot dead

Police in America were last night hunting a gunman believed to have murdered his former girlfriend and her British boyfriend, Theodore Widdowes, 30, is believed to have shot Rhoda Priebe, 32, from Gloucestershire, at a carwash park in Nevada.

Guerin arrests

Irish police arrested six men and a woman yesterday in connection with the murder of Veronica Guerin, the investigative reporter who was shot dead in Dublin. An EU drugs conference in Dublin yesterday was told that drugs had almost vanished from the city since a police crime purge.

Loch clean-up

The bed of a Scottish loch is to be cleared of debris that might have come from nuclear submarines, the Government disclosed in a Commons written reply yesterday. Responsibility for Holy Loch will then be transferred from the Ministry of Defence to civil authorities.

Editors alter code

Editors have tightened their own code preventing newspapermen from paying criminal trial witnesses after the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, threatened to make payments, a criminal offence. In future editors will tell lawyers what deals have been struck.

Complete picture

Two halves of a Canaletto may be reunited for the first time since they left the artist's studio. One section of his view of the Thames is in Norfolk while the other is in Cuba. Havana has refused to sell his section to the National Trust but has agreed to a possible temporary joint exhibition.

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Irish given referendum on tougher bail laws

BY AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Irish are being promised a reduction in crime if they vote this month for changes to the bail laws. The changes would bring Irish law in line with Britain, making it easier for judges to refuse bail. At the moment bail in Ireland can be refused only if there is proof that the accused will abscond or interfere with witnesses.

The Government is asking the public in a referendum to agree to a third category which refuses bail if the accused is considered likely to reoffend.

Official figures show that 5 per cent of detected crime is committed by people on bail but police say privately that the level is much higher.

Public demands for changes in the law reached a crescendo last June when the Dublin journalist Veronica Guerin was shot dead. There was a widespread perception that criminals were taking over Irish society. The Government introduced an anti-crime package which included the promise of a referendum on bail on November 28.

Dick Spring, leader of the Labour Party, a traditional opponent of bail restrictions, yesterday urged people to vote for the amendment. But the Right to Bail campaign says the change will undermine the presumption of innocence.

Ulster is high on Clinton agenda, pledges Mitchell

BY NICHOLAS WATT AND AUDREY MAGEE

PRESIDENT Clinton will continue to place the search for peace in Northern Ireland high on his agenda, George Mitchell, the chairman of the multi-party talks at Stormont, said yesterday. However, it now seems unlikely that the President will make a planned visit to Dublin next month.

As politicians on both sides of the border welcomed Mr Clinton's re-election, Mr Mitchell said in Belfast: "The President has roots here. He has a very keen personal interest in what is occurring and wants to be helpful and supportive. I think that interest will remain very high."

Mr Mitchell, a former Senator and Mr Clinton's unofficial envoy to Northern Ireland, chaired a full session of talks at Stormont yesterday.

John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, led the cross-party tributes to Mr Clinton in the Dublin Parliament. He described the President as a "great and consistent friend of Ireland", adding: "We as a country have much to be grateful for in respect of President Clinton's first term and we look forward to his second term."

His comments were echoed by Gerry Adams, President of Sinn Féin. He said: "President Clinton's even-handed approach to the search for peace has been a critical engage-

ment which has clearly helped push the situation forward."

In his first two years in office, Unionists criticised Mr Clinton for pandering to republicans in an attempt to win the Irish-American vote. However, the President has tried to be even-handed in his dealings with Northern Ireland and has welcomed Unionists to the White House. It is a measure of his success that Unionists barely said a word about his re-election yesterday.

However, the Ulster Unionists did praise his commitment to economic regeneration in Northern Ireland and his efforts to understand the Unionist viewpoint. Reg Empey, the party's vice president, said: "The US administration is still tilted to the nationalists. But it has become more balanced, and we hope to strengthen our relationship with the US administration."

Mr Clinton's visit to the Republic would have come exactly a year after his historic visit to Ireland. The President was due to hold a summit in Dublin with Mr Bruton to mark the end of Ireland's six month presidency of the European Union. It is understood that Mr Bruton will travel to Washington instead.

Peter Riddell, page 12 US election, pages 16, 18, 19

Hundreds turn out for Collins film

BY AUDREY MAGEE AND NICHOLAS WATT

IT IS the most eagerly awaited event in Irish cinema since Oscar-winning *Ryan's Daughter* in 1970. The contrast between the openings of Michael Collins north and south of the border could not be greater.

Neil Jordan's movie about the IRA leader Michael Collins received two premieres, in Cork and Dublin, last night. In Ulster it will open tomorrow amid concern that the portrayal of the man credited with inventing 20th Century terrorism will heighten tensions in the Province.

John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, went to the reception and screening in Cork while his opposition Fianna Fáil leader, Bertie Ahern, opted for the Dublin show.

The stars managed to be present at both. Actors Liam Neeson and Stephen Rea, and director Neil Jordan were among the many who flew 150 miles from Cork Collins' home town, to Dublin for the premiere in the capital city. There were hundreds of people on the streets in both cities to welcome the film.

The Irish are proud of the film, depicting one of the most charismatic leaders of the Irish fight for independence from British rule. Nora Quinn, the Irish minister for justice, a grand-niece of

Collins who was at the Dublin premiere, said: "It does not glorify violence."

Warner Brothers are hoping it will break the box office record currently held by *Jurassic Park* which grossed £31 million. It has an open certificate, allowing children to see it.

There will be a low-profile opening in Ulster. John Cole, the BBC's former political editor who is from the Province, has described the film as a "despicable piece of republican propaganda which could 'cause people to be killed in my native land'." Security sources do not expect the film to provoke trouble.

Review, page 1

WE MAY HAVE HAD OUR CRITICS, BUT NOW THE WHOLE WORLD'S BEHIND US.

LOTTERIES CONTRIBUTING MOST TO GOOD CAUSES AND GOVERNMENT DUTY TAXES.

1. The National Lottery (U.K.)
2. Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank Lottery (Japan)
3. ONLAE (Spain)
4. La Française des Jeux (France)

*Source: La Fleur's Lottery World, The Worldwide Lottery Efficiency Study 1996, based on the top 30 lotteries worldwide ranked by govt. profits.

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Labour leader brushes hair debate aside as strategists seek to attract disenchanted women voters

Blair prepares for charm offensive to close gender gap

By Philip Webster and Andrew Pearce

AS President Clinton rode to victory yesterday with the help of a heavy endorsement from women voters, Tony Blair's advisers were striving for the formula that would help their man do the same in a few months' time.

Behind an uproarious debate at Westminster over whether Mr Blair had flattered his bouffant style to appeal to disenchanted women lay a far more serious problem that is exercising Labour strategists.

The hair may be a tiny part of the problem — although Mr Blair admitted his difficulty was keeping it rather than changing it. In recent weeks, however, after discussions within the party's National Executive Committee and the Shadow Cabinet, Labour has been trying to find ways of closing the gender gap. Labour's policies and big political speeches are to be geared

ever more to attract women. When they had done their job of denouncing the *Financial Times* for its lechery in running a story about Mr Blair's hair on its front page — a black day in the history of the newspaper, a source close to Mr Blair said — Labour strategists admitted privately that Mr Blair was very aware of the need to do more to appeal to women voters: a recent MORI survey found that 48 per cent of women were satisfied with his performance as Labour leader compared with 60 per cent of men.

Labour is much more popular with women generally than the Conservatives. However, when Mr Blair's rating fell sharply earlier this year women deserted him more than men; the group on which he has to do most work are working-class women aged over 35. The position has improved substantially in re-

cent weeks but Labour is determined to do more. Labour's election chiefs believe that most men have made up their minds about how they will vote. The women's vote is much more volatile, women, they think, are also likely to be more cautious about changing parties. "Women are not gamblers and if they feel they are getting slightly better off they might think twice before thinking of coming over."

Through grimed teeth Labour strategists concede that one of the big secrets of Margaret Thatcher's success was her ability to persuade women that she understood their problems as the side of the partnership that thought and cared most about money and the general well-being of the family. "They may not have liked her but somehow they felt she was on their wavelength. Tony knows he



Hair apparent, still: Tony Blair has admitted that his difficulty has not been in changing his bouffant hairstyle but in keeping it

has to do the same thing." Not surprisingly Labour denies that its own poll and "focus group" findings accord with Tory claims that Mr Blair is seen as "smarmy". They admit, however, that some women find it difficult to relate to him. Over the next few weeks Mr Blair can be expected to be talking in less grand terms about the economy. His advisers want him to talk about cash and household budgets. According to front-

benchers the message from Mr Blair since Frances Lawrence launched the morality debate has gone down particularly well with women.

John Major is marginally less popular among men than women and among Tory voters he is more popular among women. One myth can, however, be nailed: the current perception that women generally regard Mr Major more highly than Mr Blair. MORI's latest finding has the Labour

leader well ahead. Mary Spillane, an image consultant employed by many MPs, thought that Mr Blair still had a lot of work to do to win over women. "Before he had the bouffant chopped off his hair created the impression that he spent too much time in front of the mirror with a roller brush."

"For many women the Prime Minister, despite his voice, still appears to be more masculine. Tony Blair needs voice coaching. He does not

sound sincere. But the idea he should start talking about household bills is a turn-off. Women will see straight through it."

"Apart from the voice, he does not speak enough from the heart. He appears to be programmed. Women are turned off. They are better judges than men. They were not impressed when he came down so hard on Clare Short. She is popular with women."

One woman Labour MP

said: "At the last election we trailed behind the Tories with women. We have done enormous work to bridge the gap. We have to ensure that the frontbench does not sound as if it knows only about the balance of payments."

Mr Blair is to follow in Mr Major's footsteps as a guest on Radio 4's *Desert Island Discs*. The programme will be broadcast on November 24.

Leading article, page 23

Long and short of mouse life

By Nigel Hawkes
SCIENCE EDITOR

A DWARF breed of mice which live much longer than the normal variety may hold clues to the ageing process.

American scientists have found that a species called Ames dwarf mice, which are deficient in growth hormone, outlive the normal mouse's two-year span by another year if they are males and longer if they are females. The Ames mice are normal size at birth but because of their inability to make various hormones never grow to more than a third of adult size.

Dr Holly Brown-Borg of the University of North Dakota and colleagues found that normal mice lived between 500 and 1,000 days. The dwarf mice lived to an average 1,076 days if males and 1,206 if females.

The team suggests in *Nature* that reduced body size and hormone changes may be responsible. Small breeds of dogs and horses tend to live longer, and the team suggests that shorter people may live longer than taller people, though without citing evidence.

New cancer link to smoking

SMOKING more than 20 cigarettes a day can quadruple a woman's chances of breast cancer if she carries a particular gene mutation, says a new study (Nigel Hawkes writes).

About half of white women have this mutation, which makes it harder for the body to neutralise the carcinogens in cigarette smoke. A team from the US National Cancer Institute in Washington DC and the National Centre for Toxicological Research in Arkansas compared 324 New York women suffering from breast cancer with 327 healthy women.

They studied DNA from white blood cells, looking for a gene called N-acetyltransferase 2, which makes an enzyme that helps to detoxify cigarette smoke. Heavy smokers with three particular mutations on the gene were four times more likely to contract breast cancer.

The results were given at a conference in Budapest last month and will be published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. This week's *New Scientist* summarises the conclusions.

Heroine's battle, page 20

□ The architect of the North Greenwich Jubilee line station is not, as incorrectly reported on November 1 and 2, Sir Norman Foster, but Professor William Alsop of Alsop & Störmer. We apologise for the error.

□ The ME Association asks us to make clear that it does not believe that ME/CFS is due to a specific organic cause

(article, October 3), but that there are precipitating factors for the disease (eg, infections) and perpetuating factors (organic, social, psychiatric) which may all interact.

□ The Press and Journal, Aberdeen, is not owned by the Barclay brothers (Business News, yesterday), but by the Northcliffe Newspaper Group.

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Shephard gives Ridings a month to improve

Failings too bad for normal plan

By JOHN O'LEARY AND PAUL WILKINSON

GILLIAN SHEPHARD announced an unprecedented set of measures to revive The Ridings School yesterday after a damning report by inspectors had confirmed that the school was failing.

The Education and Employment Secretary blamed teachers and managers for the collapse of discipline that led to the Halifax school's closure last week. She halved the time normally given to governors to produce an action plan and ordered fortnightly visits by inspectors while concern continued over standards.

Mrs Shephard gave the governors and local authority a month to convince her not to send in a "hit squad" to run the school. She said the failings were too serious to follow the normal procedures.

As The Ridings reopened to sixth-formers and GCSE students, the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers withdrew its strike threat. But Nigel de Gruchy, the union's

general secretary, said that half a dozen other schools were in a similar state.

Mr de Gruchy said he had no regrets about the union's role in bringing matters to a head at the school. He accepted that some of his members might lose their jobs. "I think the whole country will be grateful to the NASUWT, and I will do the same thing again if necessary."

The inspectors' report blamed the school's failure on all the parties involved: a minority of disruptive pupils, bad teaching and a lack of support from the school's governors and the local authority. Two fifths of the lessons observed were considered unsatisfactory and the same proportion of pupils were leaving school without any qualifications. Mrs Shephard said: "Where teaching is poor and expectations are low, pupils are bored and behaviour deteriorates. The experience of other failing schools shows a clear link between poor teaching and poor behaviour."

She was equally critical of Calderdale education authority. She urged it to submit itself for a voluntary inspection by Ofsted. But the authority said in response that only last year another government minister had turned down a request for £5.54 million regeneration funding, half of which had been earmarked for The Ridings and other schools in the area.

The authority is to introduce a ten-point plan in the wake of the Ofsted report to give The Ridings what it calls a "fresh start". The local authority will take direct control of the school from the governors.

The Rev Stan Brown, the



Peter Clark, the newly appointed acting head of The Ridings, gets down to meeting his pupils on his first day in charge of the school

The day that staff nearly lost control

OFSTED'S most senior inspector gave a graphic account yesterday of the day that staff at The Ridings virtually lost control of the school.

Mike Tomlinson, who led the inspection team, said at the launch of his report: "During the first day, the school was relatively orderly, though there were a number of pupils wandering around and behaviour in class of a small minority was quite unacceptable and seriously disrupted teaching."

By half-way through the following day the inspectors feared for the safety of the pupils. Mr Tomlinson gave a diary of the day's events:

11am: inspectors see a se-

TIMETABLE OF DISRUPTION

niar member of staff "man-handle" a pupil out of a lesson.

12.30pm: lunchtime behaviour reaches "dangerous" levels, with the corridors "like a racetrack" and staff notable by their absence. Outside the school, inspectors witness a drunken man taunting pupils across the perimeter fence. The children pelt him with stones. Elsewhere, inspectors find a boy being badly beaten by another pupil. They drag the two apart.

1.30: up to 15 pupils are seen on the playing field giving clenched-fist salutes and refusing to return to class. "It was clear at that time the school could not account for the whereabouts of all the pupils, nor ensure their safety."

1.40: Karen Stansfield, the head teacher, is told that the inspectors judge the school to be "moving out of control". She agrees.

1.50: Ian Jennings, Calderdale's Director of Education, is warned that urgent action is needed to ensure the safety of pupils and teachers.

2pm: Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, is given preliminary findings.

Mr Tomlinson said the inspectors found "huge con-

trasts". "There were lessons where pupils wanted to learn and were being taught effectively. Next door there would be a degree of chaos."

One class spent a whole religious studies lesson colouring in a picture of a church, copying out a short passage and filling in missing words. Most of a French lesson was spent drawing a picture of a table and labelling it in the language.

Mr Tomlinson accepted that the school had a high proportion of pupils with low reading ages and special needs but he said other schools coped. He said he had never experienced an inspection where so many failings converged.

Both boys said their parents were likely to appeal against the expulsions.

Expelled children will study at home

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE dozen pupils expelled from The Ridings School will be given work to do at home until their educational needs have been assessed and any appeals heard.

Ian Jennings, Calderdale's director of education, said those expelled by Peter Clark, the acting head teacher, would be assessed individually by the local authority if their expulsions were upheld. They could go to Calderdale's pupil referral unit, be transferred to other schools or establishments outside Calderdale.

Mr Clark said the parents of children who had been temporarily excluded could discuss with him the manner in which their children could return to classes. He intends to draw up contracts of agreed behaviour with the children and parents which, if broken, will result in permanent expulsion.

Two of the expelled boys protested their innocence yesterday. Paul Wilby, 15, who has been suspended seven times, was accused of stealing a builder's hard hat and threatening a teacher. He claimed he took the hat from another pupil, and added: "I did swear at a teacher after he accused me of being a thief but I certainly did not threaten him."

Jason Leslie, also 15, was expelled for verbal abuse, throwing a police cone around and coming into class when he was supposed to be in isolation. He denied throwing the cone.

Both boys said their parents were likely to appeal against the expulsions.



Shephard: clear link shown to poor teaching

Oxford business school 'would not get council go-ahead'

By DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD'S plans for a £40 million business school suffered a fresh blow yesterday when the city council said it was likely to reject the university's scheme as a matter of planning principle.

Stef Spencer, chairwoman of the Labour-controlled council's planning committee, criticised the university for choosing a greenfield site against the advice of the council. Her views echoed the mood of many dons who on Wednesday rejected what they felt was presented as a fait accompli.

Congregation, the dons' parliament, voted against using a university-owned sports

ground for the Wafic Rida Said Business School, named after the Syrian-born benefactor who has offered £20 million for its development.

Disappointed supporters of the project said yesterday that the university faced losing the donation, which was dependent on a central site being found. A university survey funded by Mr Said decided that the Mansfield Road site was the only viable choice.

Professor John Kay, director-designate of the business school, may not take up the position if the site and the Said donation are lost. He said his appointment was "clearly conditional upon the establishment of a viable school".

Professor Kay, director of the Centre for Business Strat-

egy at the London Business School, said he found the tone of Wednesday's debate by Oxford dons "awful". He particularly criticised Professor David Smith, head of the Department of Pharmacology, who said that the Wafic Said Foundation, on which univer-

sity members would be in a minority, would be the first step in Oxford's fragmentation into privately owned foundations.

Professor Kay said Professor Smith was "grossly inaccurate". "What the foundation does is own the building and it

is the university that runs the building, so actually the foundation's powers are extremely small." He added: "The whole thing is a catastrophe for any kind of fundraising in Oxford."

Ms Spencer said the scheme was contrary to the city's local

plan, which reserved the site as a green field. "We are very concerned the application was being treated by the university as a fait accompli. I am pretty sure the majority of the planning committee would have been against building there."

Not even an outline application had been received, Ms Spencer said. "There are several possible sites which are at present car parks and our officers did make clear to the architects for the development that Mansfield Road was the least preferable site, but they still insisted on going ahead."

Brylly Keen, the vice-chairman of the committee, said: "The university is trying to drum up support so when it comes to us they will have a loaded gun at our backs, and I don't like the way it is going about this. I am not concerned about where the funding's coming from. I am totally opposed to building on a green space in the centre of the city."

If rejected by city councillors, a planning appeal would be held by the Environment

Department, a process which would take at least a year.

The university yesterday issued a statement to counteract the possibility raised after the vote by Mr Said that he was reconsidering his donation. "The university wishes to re-state in the strongest terms its commitment to the development of management studies and the creation of a world-class business school."

A spokesman added: "No other site in university ownership is capable of accommodating the needs of the new school, as has been proved after an exhaustive search. The university remains indebted to Mr Wafic Rida Said."

University decision rests on postal vote

THE most senior academic council at Oxford University is expected to order a postal vote of all dons on Monday to try to salvage the dream of a city centre business school (David Charter writes).

Rejection of the plans by a meeting of Congregation, the university's parliament, can be overturned only by a postal vote of all its members. If this ballot is also lost, the plan cannot be revived in its

current form. Congregation comprises 3,200 members, including all full-time university academic staff and senior administrative staff above a certain grade. New members who did not attend Oxford automatically receive a Master's degree.

Postal votes of congregation are rare but not unprecedented. This would be the fourth this decade with the previous three

having been carried. The most recent was in March 1995 on increasing the number of professorships at Oxford. In December 1994 dons voted for the merger of the Oxford and Cambridge examinations boards and in December 1991 they voted for colleges to be removed from examination results lists, in an attempt to thwart publication of the Norrington league table of college performance.

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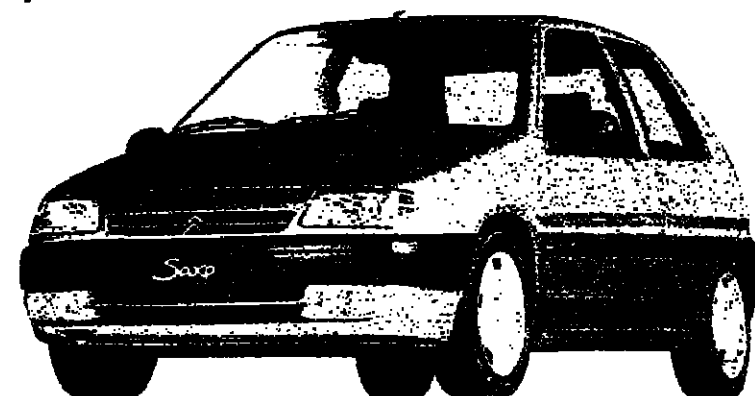
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Lincoln synod urged to silence murmurs in the cathedral

By RUSSELL JENKINS

AN ORDINARY worshipper will urge the diocesan synod in Lincoln this weekend to call on the Dean, the Very Rev Brandon Jackson, to comply with the Archbishop of Canterbury's demand for his resignation. A motion before the synod on Saturday will press the dean and Canon Rex Davis, his subdean, to put an end to their eight-year feud and to step down.

Dr Jackson goes to court next week in an attempt to halt a civil case brought by a former verger, Verity Freestone, 32, which threatens to revive allegations that he conducted an affair with her. At Lincoln County Court the dean's lawyers will ask a judge to strike out as "frivolous and vexatious" Ms Freestone's accusation that he "trespassed upon her person".

Dr Jackson's attempt to quash the action will be contested by Gilbert Blades, Ms Freestone's solicitor, in a closed hearing. If he fails, the

clergyman will, in effect, undergo a second public trial on the same charges that he was cleared of by a church consistory court in July last year.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, four months ago publicly demanded the dean and sub-dean's departure. Both men have refused to go.

Saturday's synod brings together 150 members elected to the house of bishops, clergy and laity drawn from across the diocese. Raymond Snell, a lay member, will move that "this synod expresses its grave concern at the failure of the dean and subdean of Lincoln to accede to the request by the Archbishop of Canterbury that for the greater good of the cathedral and the wider Church, they should leave the cathedral".

Dr Jackson, a member of the synod, and Canon Davis, who has been invited to the session, will be invited to plead their cases. Canon Ray-

mond Rodger, the bishop's secretary, said: "It is a representative body of lay people from all over the diocese. This is the people speaking."

The consistory court cleared Dr Jackson of conducting a "brief, unsatisfactory, sordid, furtive and unhappy" affair with his 31-year-old verger. He claimed that Ms Freestone was an insecure girl who needed help.

Mr Blades, Ms Freestone's solicitor, said that the dean's lawyers had made an application to "nip in the bud" the county court action but that his client was anxious to pursue her case. "She was made out to be a fantasist and feels upset about this. She wants to clear her name."

Canon Davis described his relations with the dean as "courteous and formal". Dr Jackson insisted yesterday that he remained willing to accede to Dr Carey's request that he resign, so long as the subdean followed suit.



Marble Arch, at present isolated on the edge of a traffic roundabout, would provide a new entrance to the promenade and to Hyde Park

Promenade plan buries Park Lane traffic

By MARCUS BINNEY

FOR the first time in half a century, Mayfair nannies may be able to push a pram across the road into Hyde Park in London without fear of thundering traffic. The Royal Parks Agency is promoting a £90 million scheme to build a 600m-long road tunnel, recovering up to ten acres of parkland taken in 1958 to turn Park Lane into a dual carriageway.

David Welch, the agency director, said: "This is the first time land has been added back into Hyde Park since Henry VIII acquired it." The scheme would provide street-level access to the hotels and offices overlooking the

park, as the present Park Lane would be preserved as a feeder road. "Sultans will not be required to walk with their luggage to the Dorchester," a traffic engineer said.

Marble Arch would no longer be isolated in the middle of a traffic roundabout but would form the centrepiece of a new pedestrian entrance to a promenade and the park, with giratory traffic from the Edgware Road and Oxford Street shifted to the west. Speakers' Corner would benefit from reduced traffic noise. The scheme is named the Grosvenor Hyde Park Promenade, reflecting the fact that its backers include the Grosvenor House Hotel and Mayfair's largest

landlord, the Grosvenor Estate, owned by the Duke of Westminster.

Jane Sanders, speaking for the estate, said: "If traffic is shifted away from properties along Park Lane, many of which are listed Grade I, values will improve. But there is no immediate financial gain for us as most of our Park Lane properties are on long leases."

Half the £90 million will be sought from the Heritage Lottery Fund, which earlier this year launched its own Urban Parks Initiative. The consortium hopes to attract matching funds from local business interests.

If lottery funds are forthcoming, the Royal Parks Agency hopes the tunnel

will be open by 2002. Park Lane is an official red route and the tunnel will reduce eight to ten lines of traffic to four. Kelvin Campbell, one of the consultants, said: "The tunnel is designed to take existing traffic volumes but there may be traffic tailbacks at rush hour."

Mr Welsh added: "One major benefit will be the removal of the steel wall of tourist buses parked along Park Lane. These will be directed to a deepened car park under Hyde Park." Other proposals include the reconstruction of Regency Park lodges demolished in the 1950s and an Orangery restaurant overlooking the park near Marble Arch.

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GPs may restrict help for elderly

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

FAMILY doctors are being advised to refuse to take on the care of elderly patients in nursing homes unless they are paid extra.

The British Medical Association said yesterday that the move was essential to protect services to other patients. Nursing home residents need ten times more consultations than the national average and often need specialist care.

Yesterday the association published a document arguing for a limit on the duties imposed on family doctors, which have expanded because of the trend for providing more treatment outside hospitals. It says that a GP's "core service" is to be available 24 hours a day to treat patients. Also regarded as core work are child immunisation, contraceptive services and the monitoring of chronic diseases such as asthma and diabetes.

Non-core services are those formerly provided by hospitals and include the care of nursing home residents, pre and post-operative care for surgery patients and the treatment of drug addicts.

Under the voluntary guidelines, GPs are invited to give notice to health authorities that they will no longer provide these services to new patients from next April. Established patients and services will not be affected. Instead health authorities will be expected to arrange contracts to provide the services, which GPs or community trusts could bid for.

Dr Ian Bogle, chairman of the BMA's GP committee, said that the move was essential to maintain the quality of general practice, which was being submerged by a transfer of work from hospitals. "It is an effort to put a ring fence around family medicine. We owe it to our patients to protect our availability to them."

He said there had been a huge increase in nursing home patients over the past 10 to 20 years. "General practice is not geared up to cope with this demand. The other patients suffer and the high dependency patients are not getting the highly specialist attention they require."

A spokesman for Age Concern said: "Older people are yet again being targeted in the search for solutions to funding problems."

Flock told to design their own funerals

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

CHURCHGOERS in Sheffield are being urged to prepare for their death as the "damp mists" of November set in. In the Sheffield Cathedral newsletter, on sale for 10p, worshippers are urged to tell their relatives, friends and priest what music they would like played at their funeral, the people they would like to bear their coffin, and the readings and prayers they want said.

According to Canon Jane Sinclair of the cathedral, November is "a time to ready ourselves for death". She has invited worshippers to complete one of the new "designing my funeral" forms at the back of the church and to hand it to their next of kin and cathedral staff in confidence.

Writing in the latest edition of *Chapter 6 Verse*, she says: "Something in November brings thoughts of death to mind. The darkness grows around us; damp mists wreath the trees; dead leaves rattle and sigh in the gusts of autumnal air."

She admits that might "smack of morbidity" to the popular mind but argues that it is relatively easy and helpful if a person plans their funeral before they die. "The process can help to focus priorities, and enable us to speak truthfully to one another and to God about what is important in our relationships."

A spokeswoman for Help the Aged said: "There is no harm in talking about death at all if it is sensitively done. As you get older you do think about it more. Death isn't talked about enough."

The Rev Stephen Trott, a General Synod member, said: "People are so shy about talking about death they don't really prepare for it."

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Keeper of Queen's pictures helped Eric Hebborn to wreak revenge on art world that rejected him

Blunt the spy blamed for encouraging art forger

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

ERIC HEBBORN, the most prolific art forger of the century, was encouraged by Anthony Blunt, according to an accomplice who "aged" some of the hundreds of Old Master drawings that duped the art world in the 1960s.

Blunt, the keeper of the Queen's pictures who was to be unmasked as a spy, examined some of Hebborn's copies of Poussin drawings. He told the artist that if he had used old paper "they would easily pass as originals". Hebborn, driven to despair by the art establishment's rejection of his own work, was set on a path of revenge by Blunt's comments. From the early 1960s, he began to produce the Augustus Johns, Renoirs, Corots, Mantegnas and the host of other masters that dealers, collectors and curators were so eager to buy.

The story is told in *Celebration*, an autobiography published this week by Graham David Smith, Hebborn's lover from 1954 until 1970. Mr Smith, an artist who was a contemporary of David Hockney at the Royal College of Art, recalled yesterday: "I can re-



Hebborn, master forger, and Blunt, master spy

member a conversation with Anthony when he said, 'The thing about Eric is that he's an early Victorian draughtsman with incredible talent who is adrift in the mid-20th century'."

Hebborn died in January at his home in Rome; according to the city's coroner, he was murdered. Mr Smith believes that Hebborn was planning to publish yet more damning revelations; a follow-up to his 1991 book, *Drawn to Trouble*.

Mr Smith's account contradicts Hebborn's version. But Hebborn himself had admitted that he had faked some of the stories, another laugh at the art world's expense. He

claimed that Blunt had been dismissive of his draughtsmanship and that he had been solely responsible for ageing the work. He also claimed that he had never explicitly discussed his fakes with Smith.

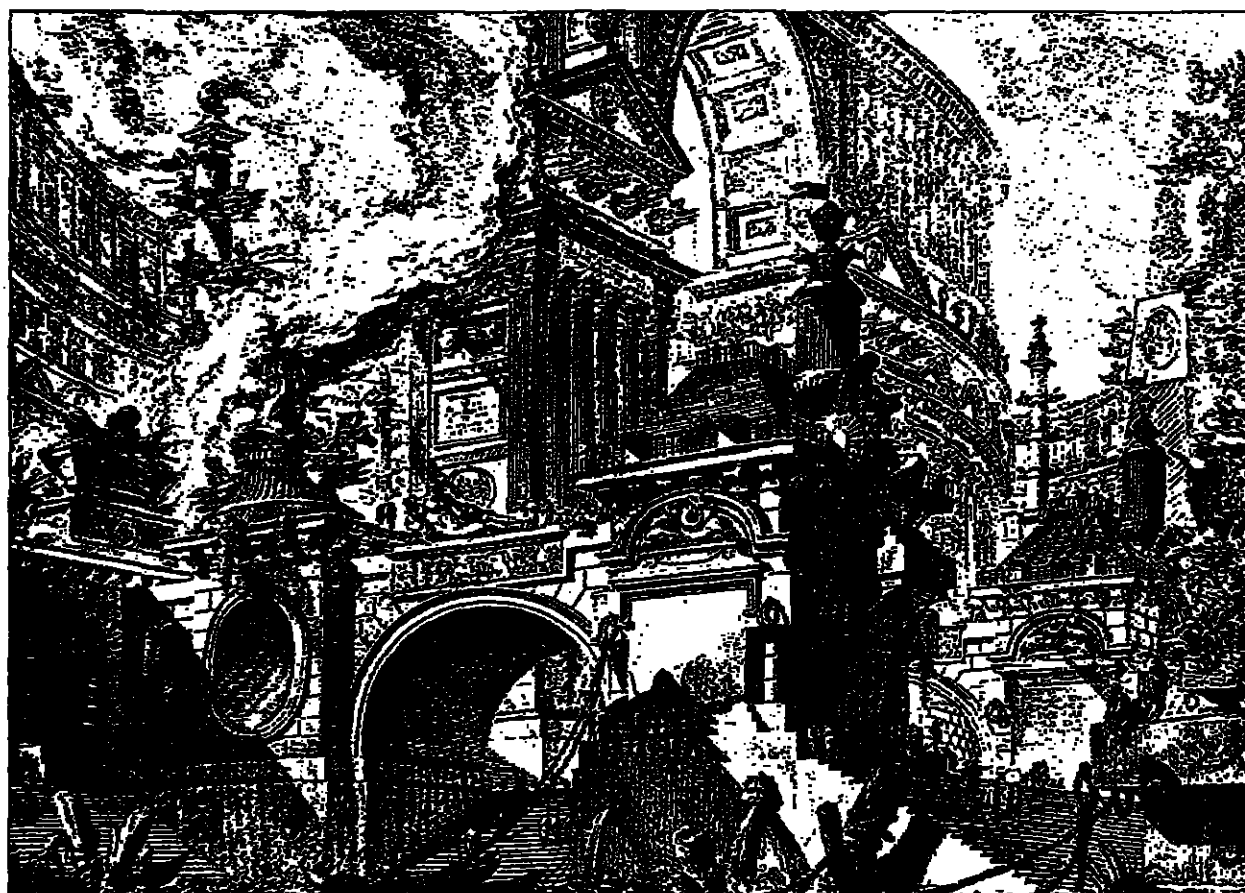
But Smith says it was a joint endeavour that began in about 1961; they sold the works by posing as dealers who traded from their home in Italy. Hebborn claimed that in 30 years he flooded the market with more than a thousand fakes; examples entered private and public collections including the British Museum and the National Gallery in Washington, but the whereabouts of most remain unknown. In

their days together, Hebborn would create the drawings while Smith would "make them look old".

Smith recalled that in his early pen-and-ink drawings, Hebborn used a modern ink which "makes little bumps". They had to be scraped off and razor-blades did the job. Rubbing with sandpaper gave a "nice, warm texture to the paper". Boiling water served to deaden the gloss of modern inks.

The art historian Edward Lucie-Smith said that he has wondered whether Mr Smith was also involved in the drawings. "He has always denied it. But he is such a good draughtsman," he noted, describing *Celebration* as "extremely fascinating".

Yesterday, Mr Smith admitted for the first time that he had, in fact, worked on "one or two" drawings, including a Mantegna. Asked who came up with the sales patter, he said: "We didn't need any." All they had to do was approach their prey and say, "I've found this rather early drawing. What do you think?" Once, he recalled, Hebborn had created a red chalk drawing of a "Renoir" nude; in that case, the "expert" declared that the



An Eric Hebborn drawing, taken from his book *Drawn to Trouble*, that was passed off as a Piranesi etching

drawing was a fake but the signature was authentic.

Smith said Hebborn took up forgery out of despair. "Several times, he broke down in tears. He tried and tried without success to sell his work. Once, he threw all his drawings away. I got them out

of the garbage. He just said, 'Why should I bother?'"

Their relationship broke down when he realised that Hebborn was prepared to use even people they regarded as friends: "The one thing we had agreed on was not to do that." Asked which of the two

accounts he found most convincing, Bill Campbell, managing director of Mainstream, the publishers of *Celebration*, said: "I got to know Eric pretty well. He did have a vivid imagination. Graham seems to me a naturally honest person. The balance slightly

tilts in favour of Graham." The rogues' gallery of 20th-century forgers has included Tom Keating, who deceived the art world with his Samuel Palmers, Elmyr de Hory, who specialised in Matisse and Picasso, and Van Meegeren, who faked Vermeers.

Director pulls 'dog's breakfast' from festival

By DALYA ALBERGE

A BRITISH director has withdrawn a work from the London Film Festival because he is unhappy with the way it has been cut and edited. Alex Cox, whose films include *Sid and Nancy* and *Repo Man*, yesterday attacked the Hollywood distributors who, he said, had misunderstood the film's whimsical humour and its low-life characters.

Regretting that "some people have seen a film that I feel is no longer mine", Mr Cox spoke of wanting to remove his name from *The Winner*, a comedy about gambling in Las Vegas. The cast includes Rebecca de Mornay, who starred in *The Hand that Rocks the Cradle*.

After he had delivered the film, he explained, the American distributor, a

small independent company called Live, set about editing it. He said that it had made crucial cuts and replaced the musical score he commissioned with "some lousy jazz music". "It was all done behind my back. The result is a dog's breakfast. They've made a terrible mess of what was OK."

He found out about the changes at a preview screening. There had been no warning or consultation, he said, yet the distributor's version was a dramatic departure from his. Although the cuts added up to only five minutes, they were vital to the 90-minute film.

Sheila Whitaker, director of the festival, which opens today, agreed to screen an alternative film, one that "is more representative of his own vision". *Death and The Compass*, directed and adapted

by Mr Cox from the short story by the Argentinian Jorge Luis Borges, will be shown on November 15. Since filming the Kafkaesque story of murder and revenge for the BBC in 1992, Mr Cox has expanded it for the big screen.

The London Film Festival runs until November 24 at various venues, including the National Film Theatre, and features 340 programmes. Among the highlights are a range of Spanish films; *Crash*, the controversially violent film by David Cronenberg that Columbia has just decided to distribute in Britain; and *Blood and Wine*, a film about a womanising wine dealer who devises the perfect crime, starring Jack Nicholson and Michael Caine.

Film reviews, page 41



Cox: another of his films will be screened

Tyndale Bible goes on tour

By ALAN HAMILTON

ONE of the British Library's most valuable printed treasures leaves the country for the first time since the 16th century next week to begin a tour of the United States.

William Tyndale's translation of the New Testament was the first printed version of the Bible in English, produced in Germany in 1526 and bought by the library from Bristol Baptist College two years ago for more than £1 million. During the tour two library curators will never let it out of their sight.

The volume, rebound in

crimson leather in the 18th century, is no bigger than a video cassette. It was small enough to be smuggled in the pre-Reformation age, when the Catholic clergy of England opposed translating Scripture from the Latin.

Tyndale, who was strangled at the stake for being a few years ahead of his time, rendered the original texts into simple, memorable phrases capable of being understood by a largely illiterate peasantry. He is credited with inventing such phrases as salt of the earth, sign of the times, and filthy lucre. Much of his translation survives in the

Authorised Version of 1611. Mervyn Janetta, head of the library's English and antiquarian section, said that the Tyndale volume was priceless, ranking with other library treasures such as Magna Carta and the 7th-century Lindisfarne Gospels.

The Bible will be the centrepiece of an exhibition entitled *Let There Be Light*, which will include a 1534 Tyndale Bible which belonged to Anne Boleyn. The exhibition will visit the Library of Congress in Washington, the New York Public Library and the Huntington Library in California.

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Mackay in £500,000 bid to save marriages

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor has launched a campaign to save the institution of marriage by persuading couples to ask for help before and after they marry.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern is trying to reduce the divorce rate by inviting 50 guidance organisations to devise new ideas on helping husbands and wives to stay together. He is believed to have £500,000 to spend if the proposals are good enough, but has said that none of the money will go to helping unmarried couples with their problems.

"These projects are intended to support marriage and are therefore to help those who are thinking of entering into marriage or are in marriage," he said. The Family Law Act allows the Lord Chancellor to make grants for marriage support.

The underlying principles of the Act are that the institution of marriage is to be supported, and married couples whose relationship may have broken down are to be encouraged to take all practical steps — by marriage counselling or otherwise — to save the marriage.

Lord Mackay, who helped to abolish "quickie" divorces this summer, said that the initiative underlined the Government's support for marriage. The projects will begin next April. "I expect a wide range of exciting and innovative proposals."

The programme was devised by The Marriage Task Force, a working party of officials drawn from eight government departments 18 months ago. The Lord Chancellor's Department spends £2.3 million on grants to marriage support and research organisations: Relate, the Jewish Marriage Council, Marriage Care, One Plus One, the Tavistock Marital Studies Institute and the Family Welfare Association.

Lord Mackay is keen to persuade couples to seek advice before they marry. "The churches have long held courses for people intending to get married to try to warn them of the sort of problems that might arise and how these problems might be coped with," he said.

People who marry in register offices often miss the chance of counselling. The

marriage guidance organisation Relate hopes to solve the problem by asking florists and wedding shops to give out leaflets advising people to seek help.

Husbands working late in the office because they cannot stand returning to their unhappy homes will soon be able to turn for sympathy to their computer screens. Relate is proposing to launch an interactive service on the Internet, mainly aimed at men who find it difficult to share their personal problems with colleagues or friends.

The Relate website would work like a multiple-choice quiz, with spouses answering questions about what worries them and being led to possible solutions. The idea was pioneered in America.

Sarah Bowler, chief executive of Relate, said: "If somebody had a sexual problem or a problem with violence, we would begin to answer questions on the page. It is very difficult for men to speak about problems in their marriage. Instead, they make jokes about their marriage, drink or stay late in the office."

More men are consulting Relate but they prefer to use its confidential telephone advice service. Mrs Bowler has bought a personalised telephone number, RELATE 07000, in the hope of launching a national helpline to provide counselling. She has no money, however, to launch the service. Another idea she is considering is a range of video films on subjects such as sex, and second families.

Although 190,000 couples petition for divorce every year, only 140,000 go through with it. Relate wants to increase the 50,000 who decide to change their minds.

The first pilot projects to test out mediation as a way of helping divorcing couples resolve disputes will be underway by next May. Yesterday the Legal Aid Board announced plans for the projects, which will be offered under the Family Law Act 1996 to divorcing couples who qualify for legal aid.

Mediation, in which couples attend sessions with a trained mediator, is aimed at helping couples to resolve arrangements for children and property without going to court.



Side by side Lady Mackay on official duty with her husband, the Lord Chancellor

Westminster's model couple

By ALICE THOMSON

JAMES and Elizabeth Mackay have managed that rare thing in Westminster: the perfect marriage. It is an achievement that cannot be gone unnoticed by John Major when he chose the Lord Chancellor to lead his campaign to keep families together.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, 68, is one of the few MPs who can talk about white weddings, bridal bouquets and the patter of tiny feet without prompting exaggerated sniggers on the back benches. He

has been married to his wife for 37 years and is by far the strictest observer of Christian teaching in the Cabinet.

Parliamentarians are continually testifying to the intolerable strains, long hours and tedious that force them to stray into the tabloid headlines over adultery. But while other wives sit in their constituencies worrying about their husband's dinner dates, Lady Mackay jokes about it and makes sure that she stays at Westminster during the week.

She has known her husband, who is her second

cousin, all her life. They have one son, two daughters and nine grandchildren. He tries to have lunch with her every day in their flat above his office and they use the House of Lords as their dining room. Long-sighted peers often stumble into them as they hug, and at grand functions they happily hold hands.

Lord Mackay is certainly a good husband and has a very clever mind but whether he will make a better moral teacher than repentant adulterers, drunks and divorcees remains to be seen.

What Major and Blair can learn from US election

The American elections apparently have something for everyone — Bill Clinton's victory on a centrist "new" Democrat platform to cheer the Blairites and "new" Labour; an incumbent winning re-election on the back of a strong economy and the Republicans' success in retaining control of Congress to reassure the Tories. That does not mean transatlantic comparisons are pointless. It is rather that the parallels are not straightforward.

John Major is likely to be relaxed about the re-election of Mr Clinton, with whom he is now on reasonable working terms after initial coolness. On both Bosnia and Northern Ireland, London and Washington are more closely aligned than at any time over the past four years. The election of Bob Dole would have created uncertainty about a shift by America towards a more assertive nationalist foreign policy, especially after Mr Major had an angry meeting with him in Downing Street two years ago.

Labour claims — for example by Peter Mandelson on page 22 today — that Mr Clinton's victory is "a crushing defeat for the Right" sound well over-the-top in view of the Republicans' success in holding on to both houses of Congress for two terms for the first time in 66 years. The Blairites have copied Mr Clinton's campaigning techniques — his ability to

HIDDEN POLITICAL MESSAGE

"stay on message" and to inspire optimism. But Labour should be wary of too close an embrace of Mr Clinton in view of the serious charges he still faces about dubious, and possibly illegal, campaign contributions and abuses in the White House.

Mr Clinton and Mr Blair have, of course, both repositioned their parties to the centre and embraced low-cost government activism — the State as regulator and partner rather than big spender. Such a shift is a necessary condition for a left-of-centre party to win elections, but not a sufficient one. Moreover, Mr Clinton fought as an incumbent while Mr Blair is a challenger. Mr Clinton argued against change, while Mr Blair has to establish the case for change. A strong economy is no help for Mr Blair, as it was for Mr Clinton, though British voters remain reluctant to credit Mr Major for the recovery.

Mr Clinton turned his very low ratings two years ago into victory on Tuesday by exploiting the unpopularity of the House Republicans under Newt Gingrich. They overreached themselves during the shutdowns of the Federal Government last winter when they proposed big cuts in the growth of spending on Medicare health programmes for the elderly. Mr Clinton had the great advantage of having

an enemy which could be depicted as extremist as Mr Blair could have in future if the Tories swung right in opposition. Mr Clinton also had an opponent in Bob Dole who lacked a clear or coherent theme. His Big Idea of a 15 per cent across-the-board tax cut flopped because he failed to argue it consistently and because voters did not believe it could be delivered.

The lesson for the Tories is that right-wing parties alarm voters if they appear extremist and talk of a revolution. Mr Dole's failure shows the risks of being squeezed by a left-wing leader moving to the centre. The Tories claim, optimistically, that their "opportunity party" strategy, stressing welfare reform and widening educational choice, fills that gap.

There has not been a decisive shift against the Right in America. The attempt to rein back government and to reform public services will continue in Congress and in the majority of state governorships controlled by the Republicans (and probably more after the mid-term elections in 1998). The events of the past year have shown the American public's ambivalence: the desire to increase social programmes, but to limit the role of government. Mr Clinton's victory was not ideological, but personal and cynical, and probably transitory.

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THE TIMES / DILLONS FORUM

Life class

A chance to question Stephen Jay Gould

Stephen Jay Gould, one of the most popular and controversial science writers, returns to the evolution battle ground in this Times/Dillon forum on Monday, November 11. Professor Gould will argue that the idea of progress is an illusion. Evolution, he maintains, is not a steady upward advance led by mankind but a rich and unpredictable diversity.

The forum which marks the publication of *Life's Grandeur: The Spread of Excellence from Plato to Darwin* (Jonathan Cape, £16.99), will be held at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1 at 7.30pm. Tickets at £10 (concessions £7.50) which includes £2 off the price of Professor Gould's book, are available by phoning 0171-467-1633, by faxing the coupon below to 0171-467 1690, or by sending the coupon, with your remittance, to Dillons, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ, where tickets can also be bought.

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FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

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Pakistan's President accused of betrayal by ousted Prime Minister

Bhutto threatens to use street power in democracy battle

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN ISLAMABAD

BENAZIR BHUTTO, ousted as Prime Minister of Pakistan shortly before 2am on Tuesday "when they thought I would be asleep", demanded last night to be returned to power within a month. She accused President Leghari, who sacked her, of kidnapping her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, and suggested he was being tortured.

Her reaction to being dismissed for the second time in six years was classic Miss Bhutto: determined, forthright and threatening. Speaking at the Prime Minister's residence, she talked of her sense of betrayal by President Leghari, an old friend and ally.

If she were not restored to office, she declared, "certain steps" would be taken — probably a reference to street power. Earlier, Irshad Haqqani, the Information Minister in the newly installed caretaker Government, said Miss Bhutto's husband was in custody "because we have serious charges against him".

He announced that the "VIP culture" was being abolished — including the VIP lounges at airports. Prime Ministers would no longer be escorted by police convoys. All politicians would have to account for their wealth before being allowed to contest elections. Asked if Miss Bhutto could be banned from contesting, he said: "It all depends." Miss

Bhutto spoke yesterday of hearing rumours of her dismissal late in the night; then of being informed that a letter was on the way from the President; and finally of talking to Mr Leghari by telephone. She said he had once been her deputy — "he had no vision, but was a good No 2 who could implement a task when I gave it to him".

This contempt peppered a lengthy speech, sometimes more of a rant, at a press conference. She demanded to know within a few hours the precise whereabouts of her husband or she would file a police report alleging that President Leghari had kidnapped him. "It is not easy to know your husband has been kidnapped and subjected to all kinds of tyranny."

She claimed the killing of her younger brother and political rival, Murtaza Bhutto, in Karachi in September was murder, designed as part of a conspiracy to destroy democracy in Pakistan. "The bullet that was to kill him physically was meant to eliminate me politically. It was a conspiracy against the Bhutto family. Now only my mother, sister and myself are left. We have lost all our males."

She said her telephone had been cut after her dismissal and she had been held incommunicado. She intended to challenge her dismissal in court "because it is important for the country".

Miss Bhutto urged President Leghari to resign and hand his powers to the chairman of the Senate. She insisted that her husband be properly presented before a court. She had asked the army if troops had seized him.

"They said, 'No, we had nothing to do with it'." The army may not have arrested Mr Zardari, but it certainly had a decisive say in Miss Bhutto's dismissal. The new generation of generals tries to stay clear of politics but gets drawn in nevertheless. The army probably does not wish the President's pledge of a general election in February to be fulfilled, and few analysts in Islamabad believe it will be. The President and the army may seek to extend the term of the caretaker Government to tackle corruption and restore order to the economy.

President Leghari is expected to constitute a corruption commission soon — a device, perhaps, for shutting both Miss Bhutto and Mian Nawaz Sharif, the Opposition leader, out of politics. The army despairs of them: Mr Sharif's Government was also sacked in 1993 for corruption and incompetence. Miss Bhutto insisted she was not a spent force, would return to power, and the "conspiracy" against her Government would fail.



Benazir Bhutto: accuses President Leghari of kidnapping her husband

Volcano adds to glacier drama in flood-hit Iceland

FROM HILDAUR HELGA SIGURDARDOTTIR IN REYKJAVIK

A VIOLENT eruption from an Icelandic volcano yesterday sent clouds of ash and smoke soaring up to 14,000ft as the nation was taking stock of the damage caused by the flood of the century.

The new eruption started in a huge fissure in the Icelandic glacier Vatnajökull, just south of the crater left by last month's spectacular outburst, which lasted two weeks and brought on Tuesday's flood.

The fresh eruption in Europe's largest glacier spewed a 12,000ft to 14,000ft-high column of ash in the air and was first spotted yesterday afternoon by pilots sighting over the flooded area on the south coast.

Two great explosions shot ashes into the sky, but last night meteorologists said that the eruption seemed to be quietening.

There are still considerable seismic activity and tremors originating in the area. But according to Ragnar Stefansson, head of the geophysics department at Iceland's Meteorological Institute, because of the intense and dramatic geological activity originating in the glacier lately, scientists are finding it difficult to tell if the present earth tremors are an indication of increasing volcanic activity or a result of the flood from under the glacial lake Grimsvotn.

The water level of the lake has gone down dramatically since the flood burst through the ice-cap on Tuesday morning. Magnus Tumi Gudmundsson, a glacier expert, is inclined to believe that the new eruption is a last release of gas from the glacier after the



A violent eruption from an Icelandic volcano yesterday sent clouds of ash and smoke soaring up to 14,000ft as the nation was taking stock of the damage caused by the flood of the century.

torrent was released from the nearby lake.

The glacial torrent demolished three of the country's largest bridges, as well as several miles of the important ring road along the south coast. Several power lines have also collapsed.

House-size blocks of ice and millions of tonnes of black sulphurous water are pouring on to uninhabited regions of Iceland.

This disaster will weigh heavily on the Icelandic economy, already burdened by two recent avalanches in which two villages were swept to sea and almost 40 lives lost.

One immediate result is that the country's transport system will be transformed, with all traffic on land between the east coast fishing towns and the capital, Reykjavik, on the southwest coast, now having to go through the rough terrain of the north coast.

David Oddsson, the Prime Minister, said after the latest eruption: "This is going to put us back to the time when we did not have the great bridges on the south coast. Our financial losses are certainly great, but at least there is no loss of human life."

Yugoslav poll victory boosts Milosevic

Belgrade: The ruling coalition of the Serbian President, Slobodan Milosevic, won a clear victory in Sunday's Yugoslav parliamentary elections, the federal election commission said yesterday.

A commission spokesman told reporters that the three-party left-wing coalition had taken 64 seats in the 138-seat parliament, the opposition Zvezdo coalition 22, the Democratic Party of Socialists of

Montenegro 20 and the Radical Party 16.

Ivica Dacic, spokesman for the ruling coalition, comprising Mr Milosevic's Socialist Party (SPS), the Yugoslav United Left (JUL) led by his wife Mirjana, and New Democracy, called the victory "great and convincing".

Voters across Yugoslavia — Serbia and Montenegro — voted for a new federal parliament, a republican assembly

for Montenegro, and local councils.

The victory will enable Mr Milosevic, supported by the state media, to consolidate his power ahead of Serbian elections next spring, analysts say. His coalition was 26 seats short of the two-thirds majority he needs to alter the Yugoslav constitution to enable him to retain power when his second and final term as Serbian President expires next

year. But the coalition can expect enough support to push through the changes. Diplomats expect him then to move into the post of Yugoslav President, vested with sweeping executive powers. (Reuters) □ Strasbourg: Croatia was sworn in as the 40th member of the Council of Europe yesterday, four months after its membership was put on hold over human rights concerns. It applied in 1992. (AP)

Jewish graves desecrated

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

Warsaw: Forty-three graves have been desecrated at the prewar Jewish cemetery in the southern Polish city of Oswiecim, where the former Nazi death camp of Auschwitz is situated.

"The police have some clues as to the possible perpetrators, but no one has been detained and the investigation is under way," said a police spokeswoman.

Chewing-gum politics splits town

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

CHEWING-GUM and women's rights have become messily entangled in the tiny town of Aviles, in Asturias, northern Spain, leading to strained relations between the ruling conservatives and a vocal Socialist opposition.

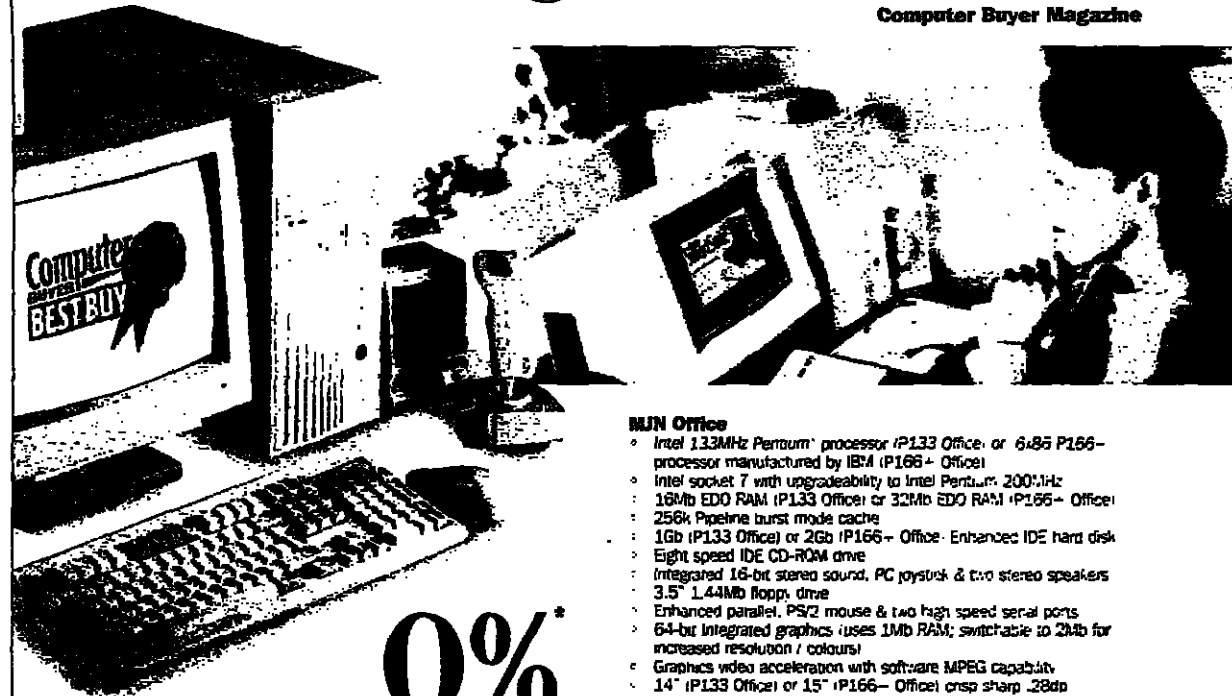
The problem arose after a decision by Ana Fernandez, the councillor for women's affairs, to set up an "anti-chewing-gum brigade". Its members are to be employed part-time to scrape wads of chewed gum off the town's pavements, walls and cinema halls. This has fired the wrath of the left wing in the Aviles town hall, which accuses Sehora Fernandez of subjecting women to "discrimination and insult".

The opposition town councillors fumed against the "assault on the dignity of the town's women". One councillor declared: "Women are made to stoop having already without having to pick up bits of dirty, hardened gum off the streets."

Sehora Fernandez, for her part, cannot understand what the fuss is all about. "I am only giving our women something useful to do," she insisted. "What is wrong with them cleaning gum from our pavements? She added: "I am not making them eat it."

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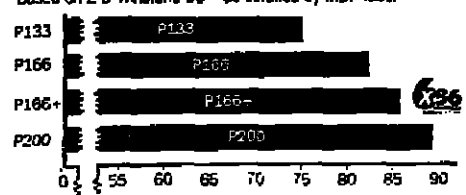


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*Eurostar tickets are subject to seat availability. Travel is only possible between December 24, 1996 to January 3, 1997 and March 2, 1997 to March 16, 1997. Connecting services to Waterloo for the London Waterloo International or Ashford International are available. All prices include VAT. All prices are for the UK only. Prices are subject to change without notice. Products are subject to availability. Some components may be subject to change without notice.



CHANGING TIMES

UNITED STATES PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 1996

Scandals cast long shadow on day of Clinton triumph

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton's resounding victory was tempered yesterday by the knowledge that his most powerful opponents could still derail a second term.

Bob Dole may have been beaten with ease, but Mr Clinton now faces the combined efforts of Kenneth Starr, the special prosecutor on Whitewater, congressional inquiries and angry Republicans baying for his blood. A Supreme Court decision next year on whether Paula Jones, a former Arkansas state employee, can proceed with her sexual harassment suit against the President while in office is perhaps small beer by comparison.

No political observer in Washington failed yesterday to notice the resemblance between Mr Clinton's re-election and that of Richard Nixon 24 years ago. However successful his attempts at domestic and foreign policy, the success of a second Clinton term will depend entirely on whether he can escape the scandals that cloud the horizon.

The question for Mr Clinton won't be 'What do you

want to do about the future?' but 'What did the President know and when did he know it?' said Stephen Ambrose, the Nixon historian. 'It's going to be like 1973-1974.'

In the bitterness of defeat, many Republicans at the Dole consolation party in Washington expressed the certainty that the Clinton Administration would soon be brought down. They were handing out bumper stickers marked Gore '97, an allusion to the Vice-President's mandatory succession to the Oval Office should the Clintons be forced to resign in disgrace. A mock Hillary Clinton dressed in prison fatigues and dragging a ball and chain limped through the event as a constant reminder of the outcome many Republicans favour.

'He is not going to survive. I think his wife will be indicted and he must then step down,' Kevin O'Donovan, an aide to Elizabeth Dole, said.

Mr Starr, who is investigating the Whitewater affair, the sackings in 1993 of White House Travel Office staff and the illegal collection of FBI background files on hundreds

of Republicans, is also examining whether Clinton officials destroyed or hid legal documents or lied under oath.

Chief among his suspects are Mrs Clinton and Bernard Nussbaum, a former White House counsel. There is a general belief that Mr Starr has enough evidence to take the case to a grand jury and it is only a question of whether he has the chutzpah to do so. Much may depend on whether Mr Clinton antagonises his opponents by pardoning either his former Whitewater associates — or his wife.

The Justice Department is deciding whether to appoint another independent counsel to oversee investigations into illegal campaign financing, an issue raised only weeks before the election.

Republicans are eager to target the fundraising activities by the Democratic Party and Mr Clinton's links to the Lippo Group, an Indonesian conglomerate that donated almost \$1 million (£609,000) to Democrats and the White House re-election effort. Republicans are already planning hearings on Capitol Hill.

Sex story hampered Dole

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

AFTER more than 45 years in public life, Bob Dole entered a strange new world of political oblivion last night, his ultimate dream shattered and only the mistakes of an unsuccessful campaign to be pondered by the poolside of a nondescript condominium in Florida.

In the aftermath of his third attempt at the presidency, the outside analysis had already started with a spate of revelations, including the serious consideration earlier this year that Mr Dole had given to his wife Elizabeth as a vice-presidential running-mate.

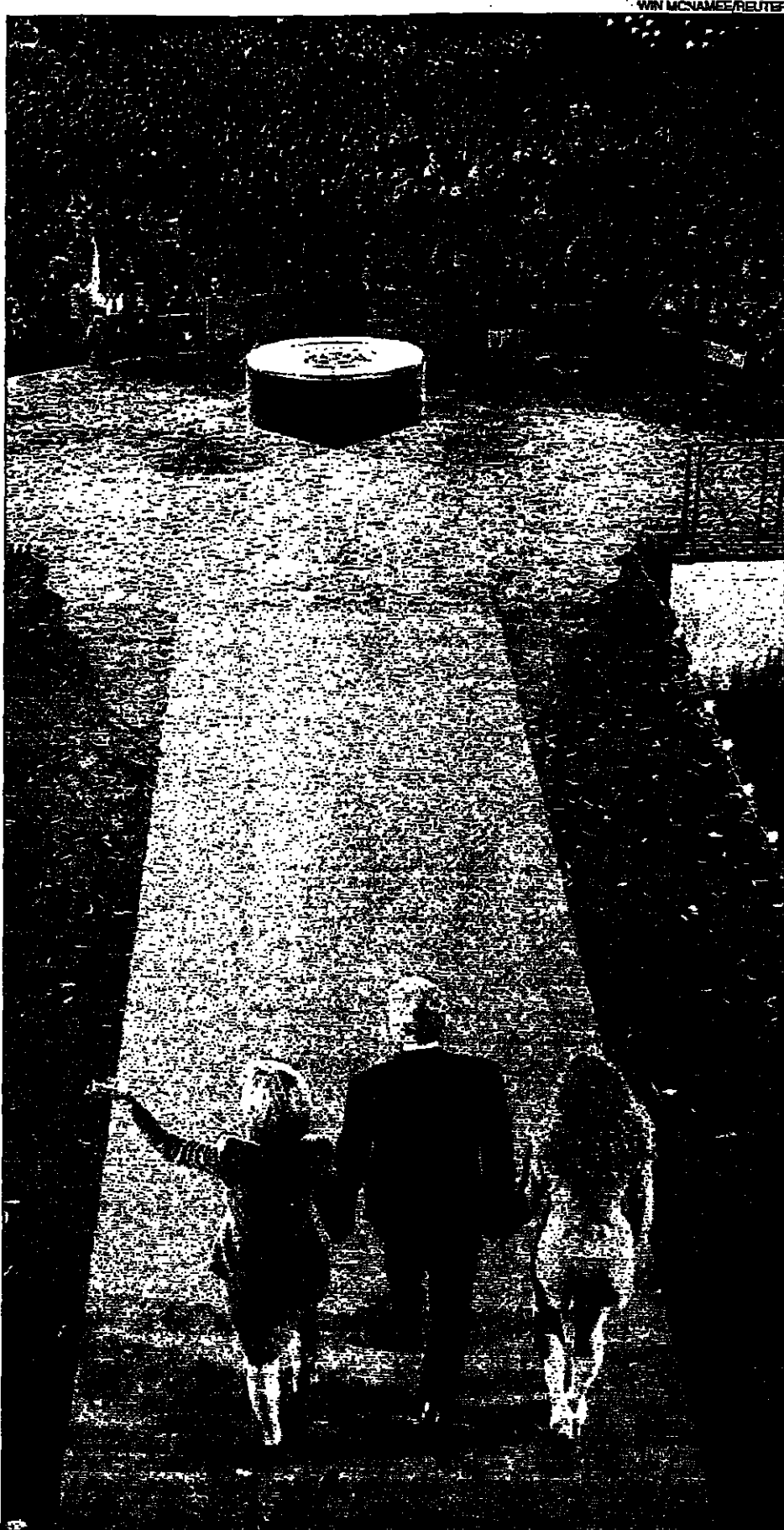
An inside chronicle of the

campaign by Newsweek also reported that the Dole camp was paralysed for almost two months after learning in August that American journalists had interviewed a woman who claimed she had an extramarital affair in the late 1960s with the Republican candidate.

Few doubted yesterday that Mrs Dole, a capable former Cabinet secretary in successive Republican administrations and an eloquent foil to her husband, could have proved his most useful asset even though his political enemies would have quibbled about the creation of such an

American 'monarchy'. The alleged infidelity, seen by the White House as an insurance policy to be played only in extremis, explained why throughout the campaign Mr Dole refrained from attacking President Clinton's character.

In the end, however, the burden of responsibility must fall squarely on the shoulders of Mr Dole and his handlers. At 73, and often incoherent on the stump, he had failed to convince the postwar generation that he stood for anything other than forgotten values or was capable of leading America into the new millennium.



Bill Clinton with Hillary and daughter Chelsea walk down a red carpet torches from thousands of supporters celebrating his victory at Little Rock yesterday

Britain keeps a close watch for the new faces

BY TIM HAMES

The British Government will be taking an intense interest in the batch of appointments President Clinton is likely to make as many of his team retire.

The most important post is that of Secretary of State. Warren Christopher told President Clinton yesterday he would be resigning. In choosing a successor, Mr Clinton has to consider the views of the Republican Senate whose approval is required for this and all major posts. His options are complicated by the presence of Jesse Helms, the crusty conservative chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The President will not want whoever he nominates to face protracted confirmation hearings. His candidate must command bipartisan support. In practice that suggests a shortlist of five contenders: General Colin Powell, Richard Lugar, the veteran Indiana Republican senator, Madeleine Albright, at present Ambassador to the United Nations, George Mitchell, the former senator who is the convenor of the Northern Ireland peace talks, and Sam Nunn, the outgoing Georgia senator.

Clinton officials publicly floated General Powell's name soon after the polls closed. The President offered him the post two years ago but he refused. If the general accepted now, it would preclude him making a bid for the Republican nomination in four years' time. He had also been critical of the Clinton style when he served as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under him.

General Powell would be welcomed by Whitehall, although there are concerns that he is too cautious about the deployment of military force. If the President were determined to pick a Republican, Mr Lugar, a respected Anglophile and former Rhodes scholar, could be approached.

A far less attractive choice is Mr Albright. Her prospects are based on the President's

enthusiasm for top female appointments and her personal friendship with Mr Helms. Her tenure at the UN has been marked by a less than diplomatic style.

A more complicated choice would be Mr Mitchell. The former Senate majority leader has little direct foreign relations experience beyond his involvement with Northern Ireland. John Major might have concerns that a Mitchell appointment would imply a greater American involvement in the province, a situation that would disturb the Prime Minister's relations with the Ulster Unionists. On the other hand, he is a known quantity to British officials.

Mr Nunn, a relatively conservative Democrat who leaves his Senate seat in January after 24 years, would be palatable to Republicans but has had an awkward relationship with Mr Clinton. A former chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, he has taken an intense interest in Russian matters. This may prove a big advantage if President Yeltsin's health problems continue to produce instability in Russia. Assuming that the White House does not appoint either General Powell or Mr Lugar, Mr Nunn may be the man that Whitehall would welcome.

By contrast, Mr Clinton hopes to keep his economic team — Robert Rubin at the Treasury, Mickey Kantor at the Commerce Department, and Charlene Barshefsky as US Trade Representative — together for at least another year. All three will have an interest in British Telecom's efforts to merge with MCI.

The post of Transportation Secretary will generate more interest because of the proposed deal between British Airways and American Airlines. The incumbent, Federico Pena, is expected to leave, but no successor has emerged. That choice could make or break BA's planning. Richard Branson, for one, will be watching closely.

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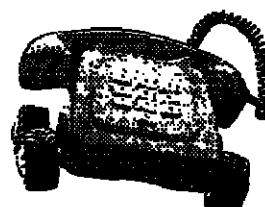
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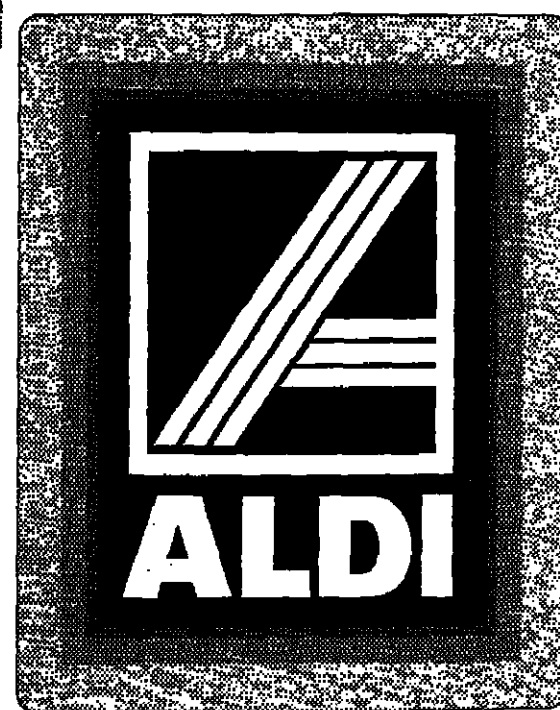
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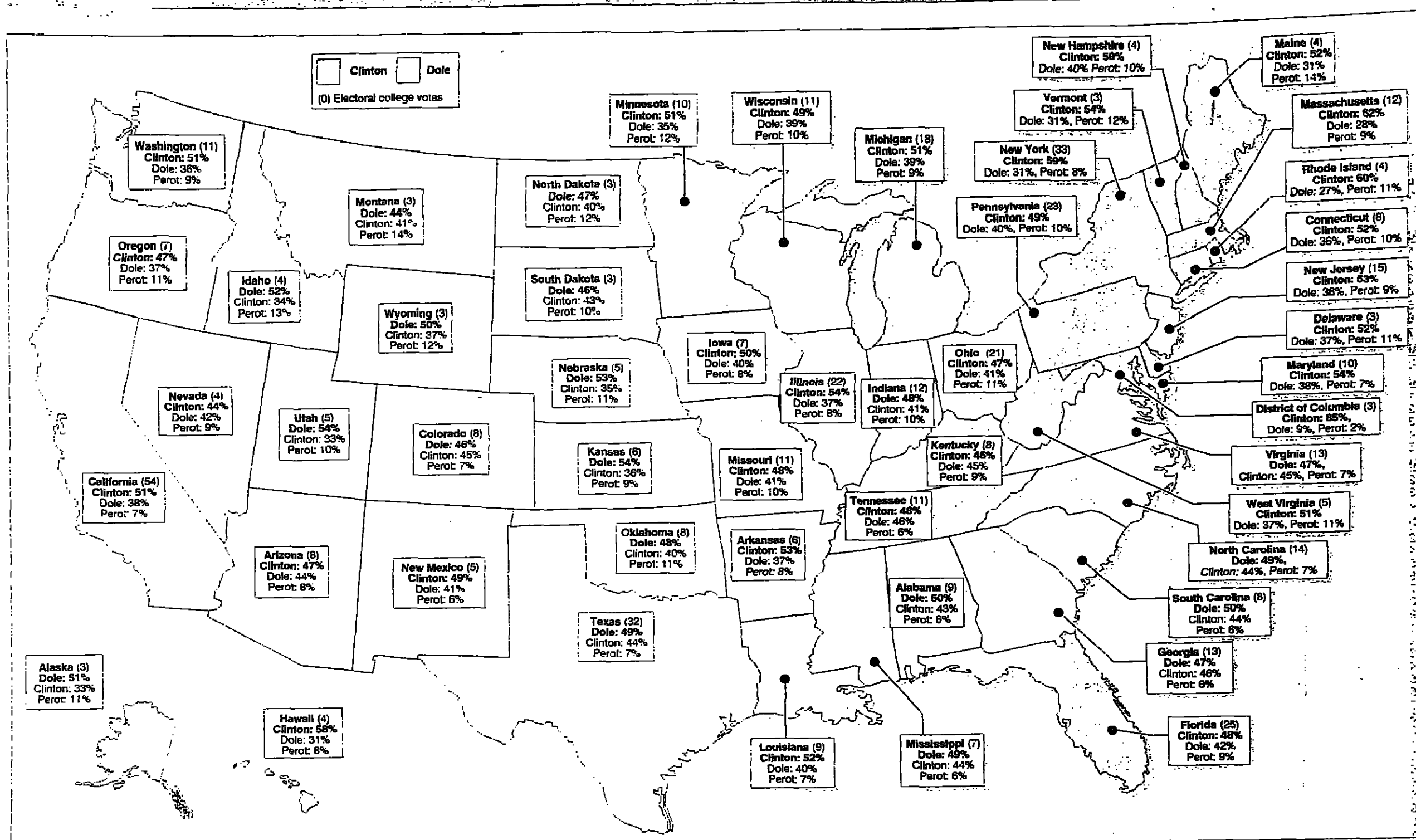
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GOVERNORS

Eleven Governors were due for election. The winner is in bold and candidates are followed by party and number of votes.

DELAWARE

Thomas Carper, D 188,323
Janet Rzewnicki, R 82,653

INDIANA

Frank O'Bannon, D 1,066,221
Stephen Goldsmith, R 971,048

MISSOURI

Mel Carnahan, D 1,220,936
Margaret Kelly, R 865,595

MONTANA

Marc Racicot, R 233,128
Judy Jacobson, D 81,093

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Jeanne Shaheen, D 267,963
Ovide Lamontagne, R 184,300

NORTH CAROLINA

Jim Hunt, D 1,412,457
Robin Hayes, R 1,079,651

NORTH DAKOTA

Edward Schafer, R 171,248
Lee Kaldor, D 88,065

UTAH

Michael Leavitt, R 462,353
Jim Bradley, D 150,222

VERMONT

Howard Dean, D 165,866
John Gropper, R 52,975

WASHINGTON

Gary Locke, D 1,037,958
Ellen Crews, R 720,882

WEST VIRGINIA

Cecil Underwood, R 315,189
Charlotte Pitt, D 278,481

President pushed into more power-sharing

PRESIDENT CLINTON yesterday celebrated an historic victory in Tuesday's presidential election, but one that fell well short of the resounding mandate he had coveted.

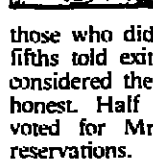
Dismissed as irrelevant just two years ago, he coasted to re-election by carrying 31 states to Bob Dole's 19 and, in the process, became the youngest of the 13 American Presidents to gain re-election.

He swept the North, East and industrial Midwest. Mr Clinton split the South and won Florida, which no Democrat had carried since 1976. Arizona, which last voted Democratic 48 years ago, and California, into which Mr Dole had poured resources during the final days. However, the electorate also limited his freedom of action by letting the Republicans keep control of Congress, and barely awarded him the outright popular-vote majority he badly needed to rebuff his critics.

Just 49 per cent of eligible Americans cast votes, the lowest turnout in 72 years. Of



Americans who bothered to vote opted for more of the same, giving the two parties no choice but to compromise, Martin Fletcher reports



those who did, nearly three-fifths told exit pollsters they considered the President dishonest. Half of those who voted for Mr Clinton had reservations.

With a few votes yet to be counted, Mr Clinton had between 49 and 50 per cent to Mr Dole's 41 and Ross Perot's eight — less than half the number the Texan billionaire won in 1992. The President's coat-tails proved very short. The Republicans increased their Senate majority by one or two seats depending on an Oregon recount. They clung on to the House of Representatives, but lost about a dozen seats overall and will have the slimmest majority since 1953.

An electorate that angrily ejected President Bush from

the White House in 1992 and the Democrats from Congress in 1994 was this year swept by an economy that has grown for 68 consecutive months. It opted to maintain the status quo, but with the clear message that both parties must govern from the centre.

Mr Clinton won four more years only by recasting himself as a moderate Republican. The Republicans held on to Congress only by abandoning their "revolution". Eleven first-term Republicans, Newt Gingrich's former storm-troopers, lost their House seats, and exit polls showed voters disliked Mr Gingrich by a two-to-one margin.

The voters "are sending us a message — work together, meet our challenges, put aside

the politics of division and build America's community together", Mr Clinton declared in his victory speech in Little Rock. "It's time to put country ahead of party."

Mr Gingrich and Trent Lott, the Republican Senate leader, both chastened by the results, expressed a willingness to work with Mr Clinton's Democrats yesterday and, given the Republican's tiny House majority, they will have to if they are to achieve anything. However, the Republicans also gave a warning that they will use their continued control of Congress to investigate relentlessly the scandals that marred Mr Clinton's first term, not least the campaign contributions that the Democrats may have illegally received from Asian businessmen.

The results almost exactly replicated those of 1972 when President Nixon was swept back into office. Mr Clinton's conservative enemies believe the parallel could be extended with this President also being forced to resign midway through the second term.

In the campaign's last week, Mr Clinton vowed to fight for comprehensive campaign finance reform, but yesterday's New York Times gave a warning that "reform rhetoric and legislation will have no authority unless Mr Clinton starts today to quit playing defence on financial scandals, cleans house if necessary and co-operates with legitimate inquiries".

Tuesday's biggest loser was Mr Perot. The booming economy meant there was far less anger for him to exploit than in 1992, and there must be serious doubts whether his infant Reform Party will survive. In his concession speech in Dallas, he promised to "take a little break and then climb back in the ring".



Partygoers at the US Embassy in Grosvenor Square, London, hear early results

Home crowd cheers on the champion

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

AS EACH new sign of victory glowed on the television screens in the Excelsior Hotel's presidential suite, Bill Clinton grabbed the telephone and dialled party workers and congressional candidates in that state. By 5pm, flanked by his wife Hillary and his daughter Chelsea, he had made dozens of calls.

One of the first he rang was New Hampshire, a state which had been firmly Republican but which elected a new Democratic Governor and senator at the same time as backing Mr Clinton for

President. Unable to stay still, Mr Clinton ran down to the campaign staff room on the 18th floor.

He was chatting with aides when the three television networks simultaneously projected that he had won. A cheer went up and Mr Clinton began circling the room, hugging his staff.

At 9.25pm the presidential suite received the call from Bob Dole conceding the race. He and Mr Clinton chatted for 20 minutes. His staff, stunned that the victory they had expected had at last become real, said: "The great

surprise in this race is that there wasn't one." Outside, a crowd of 40,000 gathered in front of the lawns and white pillars of the Old State House, the state capitol.

T-shirts, bought from street vendors and tugged over ordinary clothes, proclaimed "Little Rock rocks for Bill Clinton" and "Encore" over a picture of the President playing the saxophone.

As the results of each state flashed on 40ft screens, Tom Lewis, a burly 40-year-old, said: "They ought to give Ross Perot at least one state — he's spent enough money for at

least one." Finally, at 10.50 the President and Al Gore, the Vice-President, together with their families, filed out on to the front steps.

As Mr Clinton hugged his wife and daughter and announced to the "Americas public" "I thank you from the bottom of my heart", the Little Rock crowd began to disperse amiably through the streets. The price of T-shirts fell from \$10 (£6) to \$5 and lapel badges were, suddenly, three for a dollar.

"It feels like the day after Christmas already," said one Clinton supporter.



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found a
in the F

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UNITED STATES PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Hopefuls who found a seat in the House

This is a list of the newly elected House of Representatives. In the results, issued by Associated Press, the first figure indicates the congressional district number. AL shows a Representative elected "at large", where the state is not split into districts; the district is followed by the candidate and the winning party; (I) shows incumbent candidates. Missing district numbers show where results were unavailable at time of going to press.

- ALABAMA**
1 Sonny Callahan R (I)
2 Terry Everett R (I)
3 Bob Riley R
4 Robert Aderholt R
5 Robert Cramer D (I)
6 Spencer Bachus R (I)
7 Earl Hilliard D (I)
- ALASKA**
AL Don Young R (I)
- ARIZONA**
1 Matt Salmon R (I)
2 Ed Pastor D (I)
3 Bob Stump R (I)
4 John Shadegg R (I)
5 Jim Kolbe R (I)
- ARKANSAS**
2 Vic Snyder D
3 Asa Hutchinson R
4 Jay Dickey R (I)
- CALIFORNIA**
2 Wally Harger R (I)
4 John Doolittle R (I)
5 Robert Matsui D (I)
6 Lynn Woolsey D (I)
7 George Miller D (I)
8 Nancy Pelosi D (I)
9 Ronald Dellums D (I)
11 Richard Pombo R (I)
12 Tom Lantos D (I)
13 Fortney Stark D (I)
14 Anna Eschoo D (I)
15 Tom Campbell R (I)
16 Zoe Lofgren D (I)
17 Sam Farr D (I)
18 Gary Condit D (I)
19 George Radanovich R (I)
21 Bill Thomas R (I)
23 Elton Gallegly R (I)
25 Howard McKoon R (I)
26 Howard Berman D (I)
28 David Dreier R (I)
29 Henry Waxman D (I)
30 Xavier Becerra D (I)
31 Matthew Martinez D (I)
32 Julian Dixon D (I)
33 Lucille Roybal-Allard D (I)
34 Esteban Torres D (I)
35 Maxine Waters D (I)
37 Juanita Millender-McDonald D (I)
39 Ed Royce R (I)
40 Jerry Lewis R (I)
41 Jay Kim R (I)
43 Ken Calvert R (I)
44 Sonny Bono R (I)
45 Dana Rohrabacher R (I)
47 Christopher Cox R (I)
48 Ron Packard R (I)
49 Brian Bilbray R (I)
50 Bob Filner D (I)
51 Randy Cunningham R (I)
52 Duncan Hunter R (I)
- COLORADO**
1 Diana DeGette D
2 David Skaggs D (I)
3 Scott McInnis R (I)
4 Robert Schaffer R
5 Joel Hefley R (I)
6 Dan Schaefer R (I)
- CONNECTICUT**
1 Barbara Kennelly D (I)
2 Sam Gejdenson D (I)
3 Rosa DeLauro D (I)
4 Christopher Shays R (I)
5 James Maloney D
- DELAWARE**
AL Michael Castle R (I)
- FLORIDA**
1 Joe Scarborough R (I)
2 Allen Boyd D
3 Corrine Brown D (I)
4 Tillie Fowler R (I)
5 Karen Thurman D (I)
6 Clifford Stearns R (I)
7 John Mica R (I)
8 Bill McCollum R (I)
9 Michael Bilirakis R (I)
10 Bill Young R (I)
11 Jim Davis D
12 Charles Canady R (I)
13 Dan Miller R (I)
14 Porter Goss R (I)
15 Dave Weldon R (I)
16 Mark Foley R (I)
17 Carrie Meek D (I)
18 Ileana Ros-Lehtinen R (I)
19 Robert Wexler D
20 Peter Deutsch D (I)
21 Lincoln Diaz-Balart R (I)
22 Clay Shaw R (I)
23 Alcee Hastings D (I)
- GEORGIA**
1 Jack Kingston R (I)
2 Sanford Bishop D (I)
3 Michael Collins R (I)
4 Cynthia McKinney D (I)
5 John Lewis D (I)
6 Newt Gingrich R (I)
7 Bob Barr R (I)
8 Saxby Chambliss R (I)
9 Nathan Deal R (I)
10 Charles Norwood R (I)
11 John Linder R (I)
- HAWAII**
2 Patsy Takemoto Mink D (I)
- IDAHO**
2 Michael Crapo R (I)
- ILLINOIS**
1 Bobby Rush D (I)
2 Jesse Jackson Jr. D (I)
3 William Lipinski D (I)
4 Luis Guterrez D (I)
5 Rod Blagojevich D
6 Henry Hyde R (I)
7 Danny Davis D
8 Phil Crane R (I)
9 Sidney Yates D (I)
10 John Porter R (I)
12 Jerry Costello D (I)
13 Harris Fawell R (I)
14 Dennis Hastert R (I)
15 Thomas Ewing R (I)
16 Donald Manzullo R (I)
17 Lane Evans D (I)
18 Ray LaHood R (I)
19 Glenn Poshard D (I)
- INDIANA**
1 Peter Visclosky D (I)
2 David McIntosh R (I)
3 Tim Roemer D (I)
4 Mark Souder R (I)
5 Steve Buyer R (I)
6 Dan Burton R (I)
7 Edward Pease R (I)
8 John Hostettler R (I)
9 Lee Hamilton D (I)
10 Julia Carson D
- IOWA**
1 Jim Leach R (I)
2 Jim Nussle R (I)
3 Leonard Boswell D
4 Greg Ganske R (I)
5 Thomas Latham R (I)
- KANSAS**
1 Jerry Moran R



Dennis Peron, who led the campaign to have marijuana legalised, rides high on success

California takes lid off pot

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

DEFYING police, federal law and medical opinion, California's long-running campaign to legalise marijuana won a stunning victory on election night to allow "medical" use.

In Arizona an even more sweeping measure, which requires treatment and probation instead of jail for "recreational" drug users, was approved. California's Proposition 209, a grassroots initiative legalising the growing of marijuana but not its sale, will now be rubber-stamped into law by the state assembly.

It was the big electoral upset on the West Coast, gaining 56 per cent of the vote, and was trumpeted yesterday as a sign of "baby-boomers' taking control". The proposition, which had failed twice in recent years to survive debate in the state assembly, was sold directly to voters as a virtual lifesaver for sufferers from Aids, cancer and glaucoma. Patients who had turned increasingly to illegal "cannabis buyers' clubs" for relief say that smoking "pot" eases symptoms and boosts the appetite under chemotherapy and harsh Aids drug regimens.

Critics, including both presidential candidates, condemned the measure as a blow to the national war on drugs and a smokescreen for more general legalisation of marijuana. TV advertisements insisting that no "good science" endorses marijuana's medical use were ignored.

"This thing is a disaster; we're going to have an unprecedented mess," Dan Lungren, California's Attorney-General, said on Tuesday night. He could order marijuana prosecutions under federal law, but it is thought unlikely. Mr Lungren was humiliated last month after ordering a raid on a San Francisco cannabis buyers' club which local police had tolerated.

Boostered by the victorious Arizona measure, Proposition 209 is likely to be widely copied in other states.

California's other closely watched ballot measure, the controversial attempt to outlaw "affirmative action" programmes favouring women and ethnic minorities, passed comfortably but was attacked in court yesterday by civil rights activists.

- NEW YORK**
1 Michael Forbes R (I)
2 Rick Lazio R (I)
3 Peter King R (I)
4 Carolyn McCarthy D
5 Gary Ackerman D (I)
6 Floyd Flake D (I)
7 Thomas Manton D (I)
8 Jerrold Nadler D (I)
9 Charles Schumer D (I)
10 Edolphus Towns D (I)
11 Major Owens D (I)
12 Nydia Velazquez D (I)
13 Susan Molinari R (I)
14 Carolyn Maloney D (I)
15 Charles Rangel D (I)
16 Jose Serrano D (I)
17 Eliot Engel D (I)
18 Nita Lowey D (I)
19 Sue Kelly R (I)
20 Benjamin Gilman R (I)
21 Michael McNulty D (I)
22 Gerald Solomon R (I)
23 Sherwood Boehlert R (I)
24 John McHugh R (I)
25 James Walsh R (I)
26 Maurice Hinchey D (I)
27 Bill Pascrell R (I)
28 Louise Slaughter D (I)
29 John LaFalce D (I)
30 Jack Quinn R (I)
31 Amo Houghton R (I)
- NORTH CAROLINA**
1 Eva Clayton D (I)
2 Bob Etheridge D (I)
3 Walter Jones R (I)
4 Richard Burr R (I)
5 Howard Coble R (I)
6 Mike McIntyre D
7 William Hefner D (I)
8 Sue Myrick R (I)
9 Cass Ballenger R (I)
10 Charles Taylor R (I)
12 Melvin Watt D (I)
- NORTH DAKOTA**
AL Earl Pomeroy D (I)
- OHIO**
1 Steve Chabot R (I)
2 Rob Portman R (I)
3 Tony Hall D (I)
4 Michael Oxley R (I)
5 Paul Gillmor R (I)
6 Ted Strickland D
7 Dave Hobson R (I)
8 John Boehner R (I)
9 Marcy Kaptur D (I)
10 Dennis Kucinich D
11 Louis Stokes D (I)
12 John Kasich R (I)
13 Sherrod Brown D (I)
14 Thomas Sawyer D (I)
15 Deborah Pryce R (I)
16 Ralph Regula R (I)
17 James Traflet D (I)
18 Robert Ney R (I)
19 Steven LaTourette R (I)
- OKLAHOMA**
AL Rick Hill R
NEBRASKA
1 Doug Bereuter R (I)
2 Jon Christensen R (I)
3 William Barrett R (I)
- NEVADA**
1 John Ensign R (I)
2 Jim Gibbons R
- NEW HAMPSHIRE**
2 Charles Bass R (I)
- NEW JERSEY**
1 Robert Andrews D (I)
2 Frank LoBiondo R (I)
3 Jim Saxton R (I)
4 Christopher Smith R (I)
5 Marge Roukema R (I)
6 Frank Pallone D (I)
7 Bob Franks R (I)
8 William Pascrell D
9 Steven Rothman D
10 Donald Payne D (I)
11 Rodney Frelinghuysen R (I)
12 Mike Pappas R
13 Robert Menendez D (I)
- NEW MEXICO**
1 Steven Schiff R (I)
2 Joe Skeen R (I)
3 Bill Richardson D (I)
- OKLAHOMA**
James Inhofe, R (I) 670,607
Jim Boren, D 474,161
- OREGON**
Gordon Smith, R (I) 314,360
Tom Bruggere, D 303,470
- RHODE ISLAND**
John Reed, D 215,209
Nancy Mayer, R 117,510
- SOUTH CAROLINA**
Strom Thurmond, R (I) 606,488
Elliott Clise, D 501,738
- SOUTH DAKOTA**
Tim Johnson, D 168,154
Larry Pressler, R (I) 157,687
- TENNESSEE**
Fred Thompson R (I) 1,086,295
Houston Gordon D 650,216
- TEXAS**
Phil Gramm, R (I) 3,020,325
Victor Morales, D 2,423,135
- VIRGINIA**
John Warner, R (I) 1,208,859
Mark Warner, D 1,090,834
- WEST VIRGINIA**
Jay Rockefeller, D (I) 441,109
Betty Burks, R 135,505
- WYOMING**
Michael Enzi, R 113,630
Kathy Karpan, D 88,559

ALABAMA	Rep gain	ALABAMA	Rep gain	ALABAMA	Rep gain	ALABAMA	Rep gain
Jeff Sessions, R	776,134	Max Cleland, D	1,086,172	Sam Brownback, R	557,022	Chuck Hagel, R	371,932
Roger Bedford, D	681,112	Guy Milner, R	1,052,136	Jill Dooking, D	449,419	Ben Nelson, D	276,383
ALASKA		IDAHO		KENTUCKY		NEW HAMPSHIRE	
Ted Stevens, R (I)	127,978	Larry Craig, R (I)	260,924	Mitch McConnell, R (I)	722,179	Robert Smith, R (I)	227,589
Theresa Obermeyer, D	16,664	Wait Minnick, D	182,016	Steven Beshear, D	558,491	Dick Swett, D	214,053
ARKANSAS		ILLINOIS		LOUISIANA		NEW JERSEY	
Tim Hutchinson, R	421,743	Richard Durbin, D	2,339,188	Mary Landrieu, D	852,479	Robert Torricelli, D	1,389,428
Winston Bryant, D	379,851	Al Savi, R	1,715,338	Louis Jenkins, R	842,698	Dick Zimmer, R	1,103,221
COLORADO		IOWA		MAINE		NEW MEXICO	
Wayne Allard, R	718,617	Tom Harkin, D (I)	628,979	Susan Collins, R	248,283	Pete Domenici, R (I)	326,053
Tom Strickland, D	658,864	Jim Lightfoot, R	566,716	Joseph Brennan, D	224,151	Art Trujillo, D	152,742
DELAWARE		KANSAS		MASSACHUSETTS		NORTH CAROLINA	
Joseph Biden, D (I)	165,241	Pat Roberts, R	644,012	John Kerry, D (I)	1,297,159	Jesse Helms, R (I)	1,322,871
Raymond Clatworthy, R	104,982	Sally Thompson, D	357,877	William Weld, R	1,110,284	Harvey Gantt, D	1,152,745

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Dr Thomas Stuttford on the Russian leader's thyroid problems, the Duchess of York under stress, an extraordinary woman's last fight and dangers for contact lens wearers



Why Yeltsin's danger signs were missed

As Russian consumption of spirits leads the world — and the country's leader was known to enjoy the occasional glass — it was, perhaps, an understandable misdiagnosis to assume that President Yeltsin's increasingly bloated face, with drooping eyelids, and his dry, coarse skin, were entirely the result of alcohol. Nobody noticed either that the outer halves of his eyebrows were thinning, or that his enlarging tongue had thickened his voice.

The world's press, and the presidential doctors, did Yeltsin an injustice. Only during his medical examinations before surgery was it revealed that he had a dangerously low thyroid function, and was suffering from myxoedema. Whereas the problems caused by an over-active thyroid are usually easily diagnosed (it spotted a classic case among the huge crowd at Battersea fireworks this week), the signs and symptoms of an under-active thyroid manifest themselves so insidiously that the changes they have caused are frequently missed.

A missed diagnosis of myxoedema in a private citizen endangers their life, even though its extreme state, in which the patient lapses into coma, must be almost unheard of in civilised countries. The danger to health, as opposed to psychological wellbeing, is that too little thyroxine, the hormone produced by the thyroid, predisposes patients to raised blood cholesterol and subsequently atheromatous changes in their arteries — in particular those of the heart, neck and brain. Atheroma is the fatty substance which blocks diseased arteries.

As well as suffering damage caused by atheroma, the heart becomes enlarged and dilated, the beat is slow, and fluid may accumulate around the heart and in the abdominal and pleural cavities. As part of the general slowing down of the system the patient becomes extremely conscious of the cold, and is very constipated. The general thickening of the tissues causes pressure on the peripheral nerves so that sufferers complain of tingling, pins and needles and pain in their hands and feet.

Heavy drinkers also develop these symptoms in their fingers and toes and one can imagine the Kremlin doctors tut-tutting as they looked meaningfully at the

drinks cupboard, when what would really have helped the President would have been a few simple blood tests. Tests would have shown that not only did he have inadequate thyroxine levels, but that he was anaemic.

When myxoedema affects the leader of one of the great powers it could endanger the world. Too little thyroxine has profound effects on intellectual capacity, and even rationality. While doctors have been pondering as to whether Mr Yeltsin's increasingly slow, husky voice, delayed responses and laboured movements were the early signs of Parkinson's — or the late signs of a heavy night — they may well have been results of his underactive thyroid.

usually associated with a poorly-acting thyroid, but they were missed by his medical colleagues in the House. Three of us had dinner together at the end of one session, we all realised that the Prime Minister was not on top form, but none of us seemed to have spotted the signs which look so obvious in retrospect.

Women, too, can suffer from myxoedema and in them the diagnosis can be even more difficult than with men. If their hypothyroidism is part of a more general hormonal dysfunction it may well be that their skin is not as dry and coarse as would be expected. The absent, or thinning, hair may also be less striking. Patients may well notice changes in their menstrual cycle. Hypothyroidism is reported to cause heavy periods, whereas hyperthyroidism (too active a thyroid gland) usually results in scant periods.

When hyperthyroidism is part of a general hormonal upset it is not unusual to find that periods are very light, or can even disappear altogether. The reward of treating patients with thyroid disease is to see their personality so restored that their lifestyle improves out of all recognition. One patient was the dread of his company — bossy, aggressive, rude.

The reward of treating patients with thyroid disease is to see their personality so restored that their lifestyle improves out of all recognition. One patient was the dread of his company — bossy, aggressive, rude.



Sir Edward Heath and Boris Yeltsin have aged in similar ways

Classically the pace of thought in patients with too little thyroid is so retarded that they find it hard to think of more than one problem at a time, and if asked to do so can become frustrated and irritable. Their character may subtly but inexorably change, in some cases this change may be so marked that the resulting loss of composure is described as myxoedematous dementia, or madness.

Mr Yeltsin is not the only leader in recent times to have had thyroid disease. Helmut Schmidt, the former German Chancellor, had an over-active thyroid which was apparently diagnosed by the British Foreign Office before it was by his own doctors, and at about the same time it became known that Sir Edward Heath had become myxoedematous. Even now there is a striking resemblance in the way in which Mr Yeltsin and Sir Edward have aged. Both have the same low-pitched, growly voice and heavy features. Television films of Sir Edward taken between 1966 and 1976 demonstrate changes

demanding, irrational and prone to outbursts. His notoriety went before him and I received the news that he was due to see me for his annual medical with some trepidation. As soon as he came into my rooms all was explained. Sitting opposite me was a classic case of someone with an over-active thyroid.

The causes of this took some unravelling, but now his life, and that of his office, colleagues and family is revolutionised. He is more efficient, easygoing, pleasant, calm and even kindly. It is not surprising that one of the first modern detailed books written for lay people on medicine, *The Physical Basis of Personality*, dwelt heavily on the effects of thyroid function on behaviour.

Treatment for myxoedema is not complicated, but needs careful administration. If thyroxine levels are restored too quickly to those whose coronary arteries are damaged, the sudden increase in activity of the heart, prompted by the therapeutic doses of hormone, may be too much for it.



The Duchess of York — always a danger her type of personality might over-react

Is the Duchess really a suicidal type?

FEW people can have had such a battering recently as the Duchess of York, and she herself has said that suicide had crossed her mind. It was the thought of her two daughters that stopped her from taking such an extreme measure to escape the attentions of her creditors and the media.

The Duchess would not immediately seem to have the personality of a person who would readily resort to suicide. Although she has problems in controlling some of her impulses, and suffers from various compulsions, she is otherwise resolute and determined and has never given the appearance of someone who would be easily riven by guilt and remorse.

However, she has a very varied social life which provides many different influences, and therefore it would not be surprising if, from time to time, she was exhausted and depressed. There is always a danger that an impulsive person, who is rather indifferent to the unwritten rules of society, might over-react in these circumstances. This eventuality is hard to guard against as there is no magic pill in a bottle which can alter a person's fundamental approach to life.

RECENTLY Chad Roston, a consultant ophthalmologist at St George's Hospital in London, wrote in *Pulse* magazine of the red eye which can afflict contact lens wearers. The mechanical irritation caused by a contact lens if it fits poorly, or is worn too long, can be enough to cause a red eye. And all lenses, even gas permeable or soft lenses, in some extent deprive the cornea of oxygen, which makes the condition worse.

Mr Roston writes that if somebody is unwise enough to wear the wrong lens for too long, overnight for instance, it is

Lens wearers see red

possible, with the help of the correct instruments, to see that the covering of the cornea has been breached. This damage allows infection to gain access and raises the possibility of corneal ulceration. *Pulse* observes that contact-wearing patients love their lenses so dearly that their consultation over red eyes often starts: "I have sore, red eye, but it is not due to my contact lens..." But the lenses usually are responsible.

If infection does occur, and if the organism is one of the more dangerous but comparatively common varieties, such as pseudomonas, the eye is at risk. However, not all red eyes in patients wearing contact lenses are the result of badly fitting lenses and subsequent infections — they may just be because of irritation from the contact lens solution.

Patients always insist that they clean their lenses very carefully, but hypersensitivity to the solution can develop whereby only a small amount of it may cause a vigorous reaction.

The perils of equality

AS women get closer to achieving equality at work, the diseases they suffer from are matching the male pattern. The Office for National Statistics reported this week that lung cancer has fallen by a third in men but risen by 11 per cent in women, reflecting

changes in the smoking patterns of the population.

Equally important is coronary heart disease (CHD) in women. There is an established but erroneous myth that women do not suffer from ischaemic heart disease. In fact CHD kills more women than the better publicised cancers of the breast, ovary or uterus —



67,000 women die from coronary heart disease each year. Being female is an advantage only before the menopause. Thereafter women are as vulnerable as men to the risk factors of smoking, raised cholesterol, diabetes or high blood pressure.

Diagnosing CHD in women is more difficult because the

standard ECG test is harder to interpret for females. It might, therefore, be expected that women with possible cardiac problems would be more carefully investigated than men but the reverse is true. If there is doubt about a man's symptoms or the interpretation of his ECG, he is four times more likely than a woman to have an X-ray of the coronary arteries, known as an angiogram.

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War heroine loses last battle

Brave spirit who fought invasion succumbed to illness in old age



Mrs Daphne Macdonald

Macdonald's early married life was spent in the Indian sun, and she had a vulnerable type one skin: fair skin and reddish hair.

During the Second World War in the Far East the Japanese advanced through Burma to the borders of Assam, India. In 1943 Mrs Macdonald's husband, Ronald Macdonald, was appointed Superintendent of the

Lushai hills and became the proconsul controlling 9,000 square miles of Assam with a 100-mile front facing the Japanese. The Macdonalds' story is told in the book *The Men Who Ruled India*, by Philip Mason.

British defences had been set up in such places as Kohima and Imphal, but it was decided that the surrounding distant hills could not be defended.

The people of every village in the Lushai hills arranged secret hiding places in the jungle where they could go when the Japanese approached, and where food and ammunition could be stored.

Each village contributed volunteers to the irregular bands of young men, commanded by Mr Macdonald, who kept up guerrilla activities in their own hills, harrying the Japanese, laying booby traps, destroying bridges and denying the enemy food and water. The Lushai tribesmen also provided the British forces with constant intelligence, and raiding parties led by Mr Macdonald ventured into the neighbouring Chin hills, where they destroyed Japanese installations far behind the front line.

Daphne Macdonald, together with their small boy, stayed with her husband and was the only European woman in the thousands of miles defended by the hill tribesmen. She worked a wireless set, decoded the messages, and organised the headquarters. The only leave she had was when she became pregnant with her second child. She walked 100 miles over the hills to the doctor and 100 miles back again, after her antenatal examination.

Throughout the war, such was the tribesmen's loyalty, that no Lushai tribesman ever defected to the Japanese and there is no record of them ever giving away information of British troop movements. Following independence, and after the Macdonalds had returned to Britain, the Lushai Hills were incorporated into the state of Mizoram, but the tribesmen did not forget their wartime leader and his wife, and the usual process of altering the old colonial names was reversed. A hill in the centre of the state's capital, Aizawl, lost its local name of Thungthui Huan, was renamed, and is still known as, Macdonald Hill.

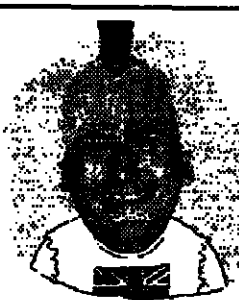
A memorial service for Mrs Daphne Macdonald will be held at Holy Trinity Brompton, Brompton Road, London, SW7 1JA at 4pm next Thursday.

Good cinema or bad propaganda?
Michael Collins reviewed:
Arts 41-43

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'In any crisis you can get fun out of the simplest things'

Larry Hollingworth was one of the few heroes to emerge from the Bosnian conflict. Interview by Jane Shilling

There is something about Larry Hollingworth which — like God the Father, or Mr Tony Benn — makes you wish very much that you were a better person. Such is the force of his personality that one can feel this without ever having encountered him in the flesh. Between 1992 and 1994, when he was chief of operations for the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees in Sarajevo and central Bosnia, the television news bulletins regularly featured his arresting figure — a magnificently bearded compromise between Father Christmas and Methuselah — inveighing with heartstopping eloquence against the atrocities he daily witnessed.

His indignation at the inhumanities practised on all sides, and his determination to force a passage to aid to enter the beleaguered enclave, despite the inadequacy of the UN's mandate, lent Hollingworth a remarkable moral authority. "In a conflict with few real heroes, he was one," wrote Martin Bell, who ought to know.

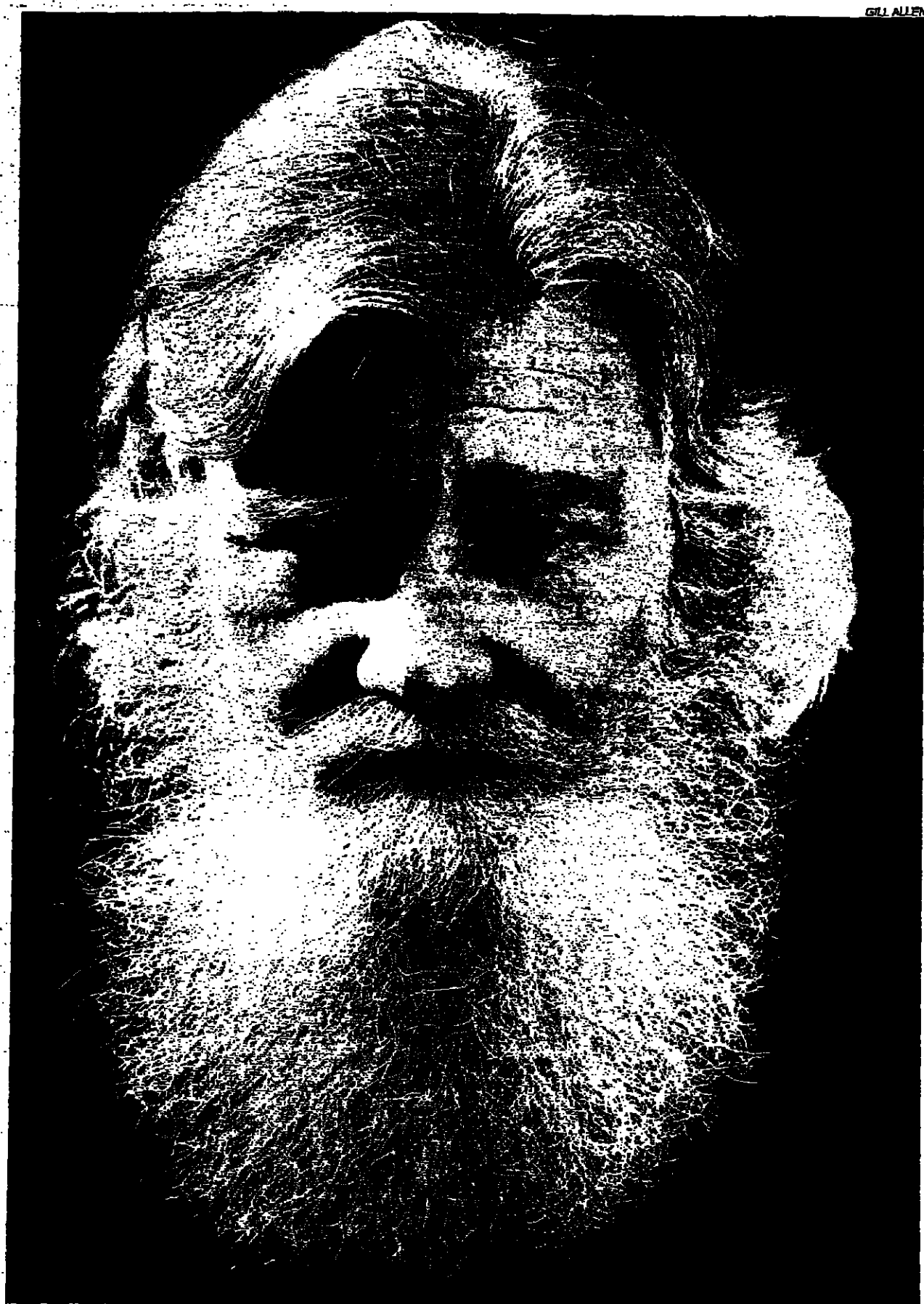
Hollingworth's book on his experiences in Bosnia, *Merry Christmas Mr Larry*, is low-key on the subject of personal heroics. An admirably clear account of the extraordinary blend of horror, muddle, boredom and camaraderie that is war, it is sometimes comic (particularly at sticky moments — his description of himself attempting, trouserless, to tackle a deranged, bayonet-wielding Ukrainian

soldier is a small masterpiece of slapstick), and always informed by a steady, observing sensibility that does not fear to identify and condemn evil — an unusual and rather alarming quality, in these days of moral relativism.

So it is that, on the morning before our interview I find myself nervously picking fluff from my jacket and polishing my shoes — feeling, confusedly, I suppose, that if I am unlikely to impress him with my sterling moral qualities, I may at least score some points for tidiness.

In fact, it is hard to think of anything less calculated to impress Larry Hollingworth than a shiny pair of shoes. He may be an old soldier (he served 30 years in the Army, mainly in the Ordnance Corps, leaving in 1990, at the age of 49, as a Lieutenant-Colonel) but he was never a great one for parade-ground discipline. "I never quite looked the military image," he reflects, adding that he gave up shaving on the day he left. Clearly his flowing beard serves some much more significant purpose than that of merely keeping his chin warm. Is it a symbol of something? "I think it is. It says that I'm me now, this is how I am."

His role in Bosnia gave him the opportunity to run his own show, something by which he sets huge store. "I don't like being led. I very much like to lead." But it also plunged him into events which, television pictures notwithstanding, it is almost impossible to imagine taking place in the 1990s, no



"I wanted to cry. I wanted to drag the people who were responsible for this from their offices to share this scene with me"

more than a couple of hours' flight away from London. Two images from his book remain to haunt one long after one has finished reading it. "Ones of Hollingworth negotiating, pleading, cajoling, and finally bouncing up and down, spluttering with rage like some Rumpelstiltskin of the Balkans, endlessly trying to take in aid to the starving, the sick, the dying — and always too little, too late."

The other is of him forlornly wandering, like Tolstoy's Pierre on the battlefield at Borodino, from scene to scene of ever more dreadful carnage. Perhaps the most terrible was at Srebrenica where, by the light of a bonfire, he caught sight of two small children gnawing on a lump of something. Crawling closer, he saw that it was a raw horse's hoof. "I wanted to be sick," he writes. "I wanted to cry. I really wanted to scream. I wanted to drag the people who were responsible for this from their offices, from their treacherous, and share this scene with me."

It is an image straight from the inferno. Does he believe in hell? "I think hell is here. The tragedy is that we impose it on others ourselves." He was brought up a Roman Catholic. "I haven't lost it, though I haven't been a good one. But I believe in God — though I think that He has a week off a bit too often." And yes, he admits, he is tempted to despair by what he encounters in his work. (He is currently in Dagestan, trying to persuade Chechen refugees that it is safe for them to return home. After he's finished in Dagestan, he would quite like to tackle Goma in Zaire.)

So much courage, so much effort and endurance and emotion expended for such uncertain return. Why does he do it? "Because," he says, fervently and unexpectedly, "it is fun."

Oh yes. In any crisis you get fun out of the simplest of things. When I was in the

camp with Somali refugees, we lived in a mud hut with cockroaches and beetles and flies. We had maybe three litres of water a day. And you sit down and decide whether to wash with it or drink it. And it does become fun."

This may be your idea of fun, I say. Most people would call it dire extremity. Furthermore, it is very hard on your family. You would barely know, from *Merry Christmas Mr Larry*, that he had a family. His wife and children appear in the dedication, to Josie, Sarah-Jo and Matthew. "It is true, but they have to share the honour with an awful lot of other bobs — the British Army, the UNHCR and the entire 'people of Bosnia' — Serb, Croat and Muslim."

He agrees, it is hard on them. "I suppose it is a selfish life. I thoroughly enjoy what I do and it must be in some degree to the detriment of family life. You're not there to attend graduations, birthday parties, anniversaries, dinner parties... And the problem is that it never enters your head that you're not there for these things, because you are so involved in what you're doing."

Perhaps, I hazard, the absence actually makes relationships work better. The intensity when he is back compensating for the long periods away? "I think," he says rather sadly, "that absence may dull as opposed to intensity. No one who is not with you at the time can fully understand and share what you have had. Because you are working in close teams, the team almost is your family. And when you come out of it, you suddenly find that you can't swap that anecdote or relate that incident, because the people you are with weren't there with you."

And how does his family feel about that? A long silence. "I don't really know. I don't

suppose it is the sort of thing you want to know the answer to, really."

So here we are again, back at why does he do it. As is not uncommon among soldiers, he gives the impression of having a complicated inner life, and being well aware of the fact, without feeling that this is something worth spending any time thinking about. He mentions several times how happy he is with his own company. "I am a solitary person. It doesn't bother me that there is no disco in Dagestan."

Yet he is evidently drawn to the high-profile. Before he joined the Army he wanted to be an actor, and he also flirted with the idea of becoming a telly star. "I would like to have made documentaries. But it wasn't to be. I haven't grown up. I still don't know what I really want to do..."

What he would like is power. "The biggest problem with this life is that you say to yourself, I know I could do more. I need a position of power to do more. Looking back, I would have liked to have aimed at something which would have given me the power to solve some of the injustices which I see." You'd like to have been a politician? "I think that's the only solution. They're the only people with any real power."

In fact, what he sees himself doing in a decade's time is not leaning on a dispatch box in the House of Commons, but writing about life. He has begun a novel, about Chechnya. "The central character is an aid worker, and he falls in love with a doctor from a Chechen hospital. I am," he adds, "a tyro at this game. But I would like eventually to put all these things into perspective. But I still think that I would like to be able to go back and do a week or so with the refugees. It's such satisfying work. The job is always beyond you."

● Merry Christmas Mr Larry is published by Heinemann, £16.99

POETRY AND REMEMBRANCE

Innocent victims

THERE are many victims of war apart from the combatants. Goya devoted a suite of etchings to *The Disasters of War* to show how innocent people are sucked into its violence and brutality. Women and children suffer the hardest. In 1942, in retaliation for the murder of Reinhard Heydrich, the deputy head of the SS, the German Army levelled Lidice, a village in Czechoslovakia, shot 180 men and women and sent 150 to a concentration camp. This is described movingly in a poem by Ernst Waldinger:

"All the men were shot; as for the town
It is a town of ashes, it is gone.
All the women were driven away to places
Where they will never see their children's faces."

The slaughter of entire village populations has become all too typical of the civil wars that have broken out around the world in the 1990s. Civil wars produce the greatest barbarism. This poem records an incident in Bosnia.

KENNETH BAKER

HOLGER TESCHKE

The Minutes of Hasiba

from an interview on 6 November 1992

They came at night with their flashlights
Through PARTISANS' HALL
They took me with them and we drove
To a bridge over the Drina
On the bridge stood
Ten older women Tied up
And fifteen soldiers They yelled
Here comes one of yours See how we love her
Then they did everything with me All fifteen of them
Afterwards they smoked and put out their cigarettes
In my hair Then one soldier took
His knife and slit a farmer's throat
Not quite through So that his head stayed on his shoulders
It didn't bother me anymore I had
Seen so much already I didn't care
Then he tore his head off entirely and they played
Soccer with it and laughed and laughed
I knew the farmers They were
Neighbours colleagues relatives
Just a few weeks ago I knew most
Of the soldiers too They were
Neighbours colleagues relatives They were
Men like you

Translated from the German by Margrit Leibert

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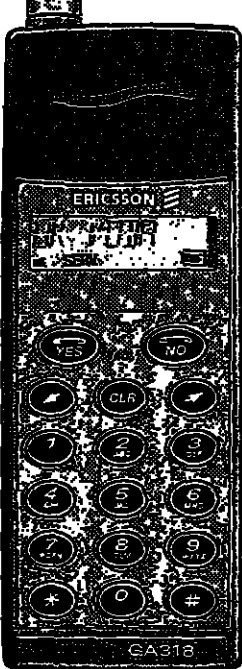
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Sorry: your mea culpa is inexcusable

Magnus Linklater asks why the art of apology is so seldom practised by public figures

Always apologise, never explain was one of those sensible, if irritating, sayings which nannies were once famous for. (Actually, "never apologise, never explain" is a garbled version of a famous letter to *The Times* by the Royal Navy's last great seadog, Jacky Fisher.) I've always found the nannies' advice of limited value. The art of the convincing apology depends on more than a simple "I'm sorry". It should demonstrate contrition rather than convenience. It should indicate a resolution never to repeat the fault. Timing is all-important — too soon and it sounds glib, too late and it's too late.

We have had a deluge of apologies this week, but only one of them seems to fulfil all these conditions. When Paul Gascoigne says he is sorry for beating his wife he may give every evidence of meaning it, but we cannot entirely share his confidence that good behaviour will be maintained. When the Duchess of York confesses her failings in the pages of *Hello!*, we may be forgiven for wondering whether her penitence has anything to do with the need to reduce a seven-figure overdraft. And Fiona Campbell's remorse at cheating on her round-the-world walk would be a little more convincing if it did not coincide with a publicity drive for her new book.

The one genuine apology was, ironically, the one that seemed least necessary. Judge Jeffrey Rucker told a mugger convicted of robbing a terrified schoolgirl of her Rolex watch that he was sorry to have given him such a heavy sentence; he proposed to cut it from four to 2½ years. It was a convincing, if unexpected, gesture. The judge clearly meant what he said. He intends not to repeat the mistake, and it came in time to save the accused 18 months in prison. Needless to say, the word "sorry" was not detectable on the lips of the mugger himself in return.

But it is indeed the season to be sorry. We should not condemn too quickly, rather we should persuade others to join the queue — journalists, perhaps, or politicians. I can think of nothing that would have a more immediate impact on the current moral debate than a few public figures confessing the error of their ways. I am not thinking of the statutory resignation letter to the *Prime Minister* apologising for any embarrassment caused by some three-in-a-bed scandal. Nor would I endorse the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary's* definition of the verb "apologise", which is "to offer defensive arguments; to make excuses". Instead I urge the kind of apology one could describe as handsome, for a mistake of exceptional proportions.

I am prepared to be flexible about the timing. For instance, it would do much for the general stature of Chancellors of the Exchequer if, say, Lord Barber were to beg our pardons for taking the brake off

the economy in the early 1970s and so plunging us into recession; I searched in vain for an apology in his recent memoirs. And there are quite a few newspaper editors still around who willed him on at the time, only to run for cover when it all went wrong. What about John Nott accepting responsibility for the Falklands War by withdrawing HMS *Endurance* from service despite being warned against it by Lord Carrington, so tipping off the Argentinians that Britain had lost interest? It was Carrington who did the honourable thing by resigning, which seems, in retrospect, the wrong way round. Perhaps Nigel Lawson might admit he was ill-advised to tie the pound too closely to the mark, or Baroness Thatcher could concede that the poll tax was a ghastly mistake. But I realise I am beginning to enter the realms of fantasy.

More immediately, Sir Nicholas Scott might well have won the backing of his constituency association rather than their condemnation if he had been more forthcoming about his conduct in Brighton and less grudging in his apology. "Look," he might have said, "I overdid it at the Irish Embassy party, hands up, it was a disgrace. I'm sorry. I'll stand down if you want me to, but if you can bear me, I'll carry on. I give you my word such a thing will never happen again." Too late? I don't know.

There is a tradition of decency in politics as well as journalism, and strong evidence that a proper gesture of contrition, far from being seen as weakness, can enhance reputations. Michael Heseltine admitted he had been wrong to seize the mace in the House of Commons during an impassioned debate in 1976, and was forgiven. Both Carrington and his junior minister Richard Luce emerged well from their decision to accept responsibility and resign from the Foreign Office in 1982. Peter Brooke apologised immediately and honourably for offending Northern Irish opinion by singing *My Darling Clementine* on Irish television during a chat show, and survived with his reputation intact. Stuart Higgins, the Editor of *The Sun*, promptly and openly admitted his mistake in printing hoax pictures of Diana, Princess of Wales. He is still Editor of *The Sun*.

I would not want to encourage a sudden rash of apologies — that would debase the currency. Nor would I urge the Japanese alternative, whereby a loss of face entails ritual humiliation and even, in extreme cases, *hara kiri*. Disembowelling is a messy business. But I do believe that the reintroduction of the full apology, and its working partner, a strong dose of Presbyterian guilt, would have a cleansing effect.

I look to the Cabinet to provide a lead. Don't all speak at once.

Exceptional mistakes require handsome apologies



A nation in denial

Americans have re-elected a corrupt Administration; they will regret it

The re-election of President Clinton is not an unprecedented political event — 13 out of 18 incumbent US presidents seeking re-election in this century have been successful — but it is an important moral event and could prove a dangerous precedent. I have quoted before from Robert Bork's new book *Slouching Towards Gomorrah*: "I agree with what he writes about Bill Clinton."

Thirty years ago, Clinton's behaviour would have been absolutely disqualifying. Since the 1992 election, the public has learned far more about what is known, euphemistically, as the "character issue". The additional information adds new charges to a list that is already lengthy. Yet, none of this appears to affect Clinton's popularity. It is difficult not to conclude that something about our moral perceptions and reactions has changed profoundly. If that change is permanent, the implications for our future are bleak.

It is not just what Clinton has done, but the electoral acceptance of what most people now believe he has done that is disturbing. No doubt the details of his conduct are still matters for investigation and dispute. My own judgment is that he ran a corrupt administration in Arkansas as Governor, and has run a corrupt administration in the White House as President; there are ex-colleagues in jail to prove that. The classic standard for the government of human society is "Justice, Truth and the Common Good". There is substantial evidence that Clinton's Administration has habitually obstructed justice, lied in its own defence, and put private before public interest.

Now Clinton has been re-elected after a campaign in which these issues were widely discussed; serious new issues of improper political funding emerged. More than half of those polled said they regarded Clinton as untrustworthy. Less than a quarter of the electorate actually voted for him. If these issues had not been raised, or the electorate had not believed the charges, one could have said that Clinton won his second term because people did not know what sort of man he was. That, after all, could have been said about the election of John F. Kennedy in 1960, when very few people knew about his private life or the past connections of his father. This explanation is not now available. However few may have voted, the American people knew what they were doing on Tuesday. They knew that their President had been repeatedly involved in what

was until recently been considered unacceptable conduct, and they decided it did not matter.

The political culture of the United States was founded on puritan idealism. President Reagan used often to quote John Winthrop's statement that the new colony of Massachusetts, which he founded in 1630, must be "a city set on a hill". What Jesus actually said was: "A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid." The US is a very large and diverse nation. Unless it is held together by shared idealism, it is hard to suppose that it can long be held together at all. When a President runs a morally defective administration, that will have an impact on the coherence of the nation.

Not so long ago, Americans, most of whom had come from Europe, used to compare the innocence and virtue of their country with the cynicism of the continent they left behind. There may now be no country in the EU where a prime minister could survive the charges that have been brought, with substantial evidence, against Clinton. Perhaps it could still happen in Greece. It is inconceivable that a British Prime Minister could survive. France did suffer two terms of President Mitterrand, which may be the closest parallel, but the age of Mitterrand is over, and the French, when they re-elected him, did not know half what they know now. The Americans have re-elected Clinton with their eyes open.

The consequences are alarming, both for America and for the Western world. The West has a brief opportunity between the decline of Russia and the rise of China. Europe has wasted most of the present decade by pursuing the dangerous irrelevance of the single currency. America has wasted it on a shallow prosperity — even the recovery has not greatly strengthened the American economy. Neither Europe nor America is prepared for the global competition of the next century. For America, the progressive shift of wealth and power to Asia will be humiliating and perhaps destabilising.

The 1996 election has been compared to that of 1936, when Franklin

Roosevelt won his second term. It was nothing like that. Roosevelt won by a landslide, and had a large majority in both Houses of Congress. A better comparison might be the presidential election of 1928, when Herbert Hoover was elected. Then as now there was a booming stock market; then as now there was widespread economic optimism; then as now, incumbents were given the benefit of the doubt by a complacent and comfortable electorate. We know, of course, what happened in 1929.

A more interesting parallel might be the election of 1872, when Ulysses

S. Grant, the greatest general on the Northern side in the Civil War, was running for re-election. His first administration had enjoyed some foreign policy success: Hamilton Fish was

one of the best 19th-century Secretaries of State. The economy had enjoyed a boom, with extensive building of railroads. If you had asked any American in 1872 whether he felt better off than he had in 1868, he would have answered with an emphatic "yes". But the first Grant Administration had been corrupt, and the public knew it. That is probably the only other occasion in American history in which a popular President who had run a corrupt Administration was triumphantly re-elected. What happened afterwards is much less cheerful. The story is told by Joseph Schumpeter in his great book *Business Cycles*.

Once the panic had broken out in the fall of 1873 — up till then general business kept up well — the typical sequence of events followed. Speculation in land and stocks collapsed, prices fell, exports increased, imports decreased, firms of all kinds failed in large numbers, the stock exchange had to be closed, banks suspended payment, unemployment became serious almost immediately... as far as we figures go, some aspects of the Depression were quite as dark in 1873 to 1877 as they were in 1929 to 1933.

The psychology of the business cycle is one of over-optimism, with its flight from reality, alternating with excessive pessimism. The period of over-optimism naturally produces a political leadership which shares the

characteristic of the time. Such politicians do not face up to harsh realities (including moral choices), are inclined to think that tomorrow will be better than today, and that unpleasant consequences can always be avoided, or at least postponed. These are the soft periods of human history, and they are followed by sterner periods, when the bills come in.

Whether the next harsh period will start in the first year of Clinton's second term, as it did in the first year of Hoover's presidency and in the first year of Grant's second term, no one can tell. But the political cycle of the US has gone soft — about as soft as it could be. In the past that has often marked the end of an economic cycle. Usually, the year after an incumbent is re-elected sees a sharp downturn in the stockmarket. There will be much justified anxiety on Wall Street next autumn.

A moral deficit tends to create a financial deficit. If the Americans elect a President whose integrity they do not trust, why should anyone else trust him? But the deficit in international confidence extends far outside finance. In defence and foreign affairs, everything depends on trust. Questions such as Japan's non-nuclear policy depend upon Japanese confidence that America would run very great risks to protect Japan. Otherwise the Japanese will have no choice but to defend themselves. If America has a President like King Charles II, "whose word no man relies on", its foreign policy is crippled before it starts. No nation can exert power unless there is a general conviction that its leader means what he says.

Clinton will now have to spend time and energy defending himself. Some Washington insiders think he will be impeached; others think Hillary Clinton will be indicted. There will probably have to be a new special prosecutor to investigate the foreign campaign funds. Kenneth Starr himself still has to report. These investigations are not under any one person's control, least of all the President's. The Republican victories in both Houses of Congress mean that the Democrats cannot block the investigations.

Most of the Americans I know are, as individuals, far better than this election suggests. Before the reaction occurs, much harm may have been done to America's moral confidence and to its ability to provide the coordination of world policy that no one else can give.

William Rees-Mogg

We will emulate Clinton

Peter Mandelson says the Zeitgeist favours Labour

No one can blame the Tories for seeking silver linings in the dark clouds overhead. But their concerted attempts to suggest that Bill Clinton's success shows they are on course for election victory next year shows that desperation has given way to delusion. President Clinton's victory was a crushing defeat for the Right. Bob Dole may be a decent man, but the electorate recognised that his Republican Party is in the hands of the far Right. Voters here are all too aware that the Republicans' British counterparts now call the shots in the Tory party.

American voters put their trust in a man who has built a coalition of the Left and Centre — as Tony Blair has. Both leaders show that a party of the Left which embraces the centre ground is unstoppable. Clinton and Blair have each refashioned their parties and driven out the pessimism that had taken root after a succession of defeats. The American result will give renewed confidence to progressive parties all over the world. It is a confidence born of the belief that the tide of ideas is flowing their way. It is the ideologies of the Right — who claimed to rule the world in the last decade — who now look exhausted.

Bill Clinton's re-election is compelling evidence that voters have their eyes focused on the future. He was voted back because he is a charismatic leader with forward-looking policies to prepare his country for the next century. That is exactly the appeal of Labour under Tony Blair. We have a programme aimed at rebuilding Britain for the challenges ahead, and are led by a young and charismatic politician who, polls show, is trusted to deliver what he promises.

By contrast, Bob Dole's Republicans and John Major's Tories are seen as rooted firmly in the past. One of Clinton's most effective campaigning moments came when he was asked in a TV debate about Dole's age. "I don't think Senator Dole is too old to run for President. It's the age of his ideas I question," he replied.

The new Democrats and new Labour are part of a worldwide movement of left-of-centre parties which have reshaped their policies for the modern world. State control of industry and a hostility to markets have been replaced by a desire to work with industry to help it to compete more effectively, and to empower people through investment in education and training.

Clinton's vow to heal his country's fractured society is also the centrepiece of new Labour's vision. But the new Left now concentrates not on knee-jerk increases in benefits but on welfare-to-work programmes which match rights and responsibilities. And repairing the damage inflicted by right-wing rule also requires more openness and decentralisation.

Conservative Central Office must also be worried by the failure of the Republicans' negative campaigning. Voters were unimpressed by Dole's diet of fears, smears and personality attacks. The Democrats made sure that they did not go unanswered. We have learnt that lesson too.

What the Tories will claim is that Clinton's victory proves that economic success delivers votes, and that voters prefer to stick with what they know. But Tory hopes rest on the electorate being gripped by amnesia. President Clinton took over as America was pulling out of recession. John Major was in charge as Britain suffered its worst slump since the war. Labour will not allow the Tories to rewrite history.

Bill Clinton gained from the belief of American voters that their recovery is sustainable. John Major and his party have not been so credited, because voters are not convinced their policies have shaped a recovery here that will last.

Tory claims about the power of incumbency are laughable. Only two years ago, they were saying that their Republican allies' coup in seizing control of Congress showed the march of the night was unstoppable. And the Tories know that even in his darkest days Mr Clinton never slumped to the depths of unpopularity plummeted by Mr Major.

They also have to tackle the damage done to the Government's reputation by sleaze. American voters may have shrugged off accusations against the President, but the evidence shows the British public are repulsed by the proven scandals here. The Tories will doubtless draw comfort from the Democrats' failure to take control of Congress despite Mr Clinton's success. But that can partly be explained by the voters' perception that there were differences between the President and his party. After the party's overwhelming endorsement on Monday of Labour's early manifesto, *New Life for Britain*, that charge will simply not stick in Britain. Voters know that Mr Blair and his party march in step. The message from the Republicans' failure is that parties seen as extreme, divided and backward-looking are being rejected. And with the tide of ideas behind Labour, we can emulate Clinton and achieve what Labour has never managed before: two successive full terms of office.

The author is Labour's election campaign manager.

Nuncio to go

ROSARIES are clicking despondently across London today as news spreads of the imminent departure of Archbishop Luigi Bommarito, the hugely popular Apostolic Nuncio. Archbishop Bommarito will soon be 75, which means he must offer his resignation to the Holy Father. After ten years in London, he will almost certainly have to return to Rome leaving a desperate void.

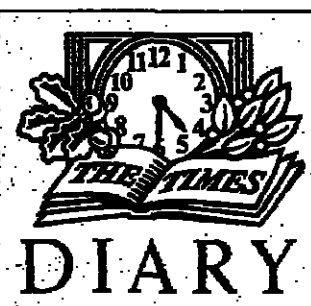
Although his English still has a thick Italian twang, Bommarito has gone down like a satiny Barolo with British Catholics. Not so long ago, he led a party to Rome, which included Italian-born Lady Hambleden, the Duke of Norfolk and his brother Major-General Lord Michael Fitzalan-Howard. His visits to Oxford and Cambridge inspired waves of twenty young Anglicans to turn to Rome.

In March, he was made a Knight of the Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order by his friend the Queen, an extraordinary honour for a Catholic Bishop to receive. He is said to have been very supportive of the Duchess of Kent when she converted.

He will miss watching snooker, his favourite sport, but sadder yet will be the loss of the vegetable garden at his Wimbledon residence, which he tends with Franciscan care. "He is being dragged back to Rome and he doesn't want to go," says one prominent member of the Italian community. "The Queen is sad at his departure. We are all sad."



Barbarito: so it's a heartbreaking farewell



Extreme caution was shown by the Financial Times in covering the outcome of the American presidential election. While every other paper managed a front page "Clinton coasts to victory" story in the early editions, the FT's only election story was on page 4 and told of Clinton's hamburgers. Only with its 3am edition — which reaches select readers in inner London — when the result was absolutely clear, did Clinton make the front page. "We were just patient," said an assistant to Richard Lambert, the paper's measured Editor.

Slow change

DRIVING back from a restaurant in South Africa with some friends,

our correspondent, Inigo Gilmore, was stopped by a police car skidding to a sweeping hand-brake stop. He was hauled out of his car by an angry gun-toting policeman, splayed across the bonnet and whacked on the side of the head. His crime? Driving too slowly.

He was taken off and beaten around the head several more times, before the policeman set off to attend another crime. "You're a lucky man," Gilmore was told by a senior officer when he complained. "In the old South Africa, you would have been moored [brutally beaten]. Changing the police in South



Africa is not just like turning on a light, you know. It's going to be a long hard process."

Hain us

WHIPPING, of the political rather than cat-o-nine tails variety, will be the theme of a workshop to be given by Peter Hain, Labour MP for Neath, to the ANC. The Labour whip flies to Cape Town today to educate the Congress on whipping, Westminster-style.

Explaining why he, rather than a Conservative whip, was invited, Hain, who has a history of anti-apartheid activism explains: "I am sure they have asked me because they would prefer a comradely exchange. A government whip would only Hector them on the brilliance of the system."

At the Flicks

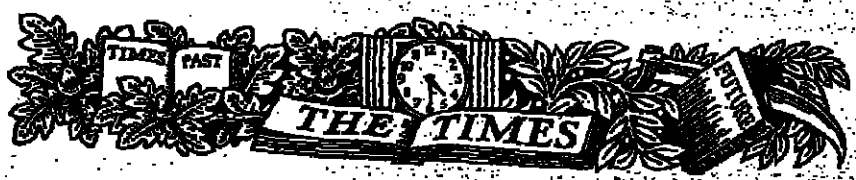
WEIGHED down by a divorce settlement of £32 million, Donatella Flick has been spending in London. She has bought the home of the actor Anthony Andrews, for £5 million. The house in Hyde Park Gate belonged to Winston Churchill; from its windows, he watched the crowds celebrating his 90th



Donatella Flick

birthday, shortly before his death. Donatella is widely thought to have persuaded her former husband, Dr Gert-Rudolf Flick — or Muck Flick to friends — to fund a chair in European Thought at Oxford before the divorce. But dons objected to the endowment after discovering that his grandfather was a convicted war criminal.

P.H.S



SPLIT DECISION

Why Americans decided to divide political power

The voters of the United States offered something to almost everyone on Tuesday. They granted Bill Clinton another term in office, though by a more modest margin than had at one stage looked likely. To Robert Dole they handed an honourable and dignified defeat rather than a brutal destruction. Even Ross Perot performed above expectations.

Americans balanced their choice of President by denying command of Congress to the Democratic Party. The Republicans increased their hold over the Senate and suffered only modest losses in the House of Representatives. Considering the unpopularity of Congress and Speaker Newt Gingrich only a few months ago, the Republican revival there is as remarkable as President Clinton's own political recovery.

In part this outcome reflects broad satisfaction with the status quo. Incumbent figures of all parties for all positions fared strikingly well. But it was also the result of deliberate choice. By 1999, the United States will have had divided control in Washington for 16 out of 18 years. That is too strong a pattern to be coincidence. Popular hostility to big government and distrust of professional politicians is deeply felt by the voters. Once again they exercised their right to divide and rule.

A Republican Congress does not necessarily mean a period of unproductive stalemate or "gridlock". The leaders of the House of Representatives have watched the waves of realism extinguish much of their revolutionary rhetoric. Mr Gingrich will now be quieter and more consensual. He cannot dominate his colleagues as he did in 1995. The Senate and its majority leader, Trent Lott, who is an effective but rather obscure figure even to most Americans, will become increasingly influential.

If the "New Democrat" themes that Mr Clinton articulated during the campaign are indeed his agenda, then the White House should find it perfectly possible to bargain

with its opponents. The end result, a conservative direction in policy but at a calmer pace and with a softer tone, would accurately reflect the electorate's preferences. Republican control of the Senate will oblige the President to choose Cabinet officers who enjoy bipartisan respect. If that produces a Secretary of State such as Senator Richard Lugar or Senator Sam Nunn, then so much the better for both America and its allies. If there is to be hostility between the two branches, it is likely to concern the investigations into Mr Clinton's assorted scandals that Republicans will inevitably initiate.

The President and the leadership of Congress have reason to be satisfied. Apart from Mr Dole, the Democratic Party is, ironically, the other loser in this election. Mr Clinton has no choice but to govern in concert with the Republicans. Whatever success he has will benefit both sides but diminish the Democrats' chances of recapturing Capitol Hill in 1998 or 2000. The forthcoming rivalry for the next presidential nomination between Vice-President Albert Gore and House minority leader, Richard Gephardt, will add further tension to that relationship. Yet, if scandal really does consume the second Clinton Administration, it is bound to damage the party in its wake. The emerging dilemma for the Democrats may come to be seen as the most significant product of the 1996 poll.

An enormously long and vastly expensive electoral season has ended with the minimum of change. That stands in contrast to the dramatic turnover generated by the contests of 1992 and 1994. Assisted by increased economic confidence, the American people have anointed present arrangements and endorsed continued but more measured conservatism. Their split decision suggests opportunities for both White House and Congress. The era of big government is truly over. The quest to determine what replaces it has only just begun.

BUDGET? FUDGE IT

The single currency promotes cheating

The leaders of the EU are limbering up for a summit next month which promises to divide sharply over single currency preparations. The fear of the French political class are growing steadily colder as they approach the chilly realities of living in a currency zone with the German economy. Relations between Italy and Spain turned frosty over whether one of them will qualify to join the euro zone before the other. In Britain, a government has all but been destroyed by internal division over Europe. All in all, one money seems to provoke multiple rivalries.

But before the century's end, say the federalists, all this will be transformed. Europe's economies will converge and satisfy the five criteria for entry to monetary union. The power of the euro will be magnetic: those who miss joining first time round will be desperate to catch up. To prove this absurdly optimistic version of events, the European Commission yesterday published an apparently exact set of figures suggesting that 12 of the EU's 15 states would pass the most demanding test of all, a ratio of debt to GDP at or below 3 per cent, on schedule by the end of next year.

One could be forgiven for forgetting that six respected economic institutes have predicted recently that not even Germany will meet this requirement. Yesterday's predictions depend on a relatively strong growth rate across Europe and on governments, anxious not to admit that they are lagging, succeeding in carrying out every single deficit-cutting promise on time. The European Commission's record at predict-

ing growth rates is lamentable. In the years since the signing of the Maastricht treaty, governments have improved fiscal balance and discipline beyond all recognition, but few of those efforts have gone to plan.

Worst of all, the pressure to make 1997's figures look good has led to an outbreak of creative accounting which threatens to become an epidemic. France has shrunk its deficit by counting a huge one-off windfall from a change in the France Telecom pension fund; the Government stands ready also to raid the public savings bank and the surplus in the national unemployment fund. Italy has invented a one-off euro-tax, whose exact operation remains vague. Spain has simply dreamed up wildly improbable growth and inflation numbers. Belgium has been selling gold.

The only sane commentary on all of this was issued yesterday by the European Monetary Institute. Inhibited by politics from venturing into the sensitive ground of individual deficit-shrinking tricks or precise forecasts for 1997, the institute confined itself to underlining that the only budget consolidation worth having needs to be sustainable. Its report added for good measure that even a "stability pact", designed to keep down deficits with threats of fines, would be no substitute for long-term spending control.

The European Commission's forecasts can fit only a pre-ordained political objective. Yesterday's figures are not credible. Those who base decisions on such numbers deserve to lose their shirts.

HAIR APPARENT

A parting of the ways between baldies and the rest

All good politicians are judged by what they have on top: not brains, of course, but that. And in Tony Blair's case, his hair has apparently won him *nul points* from female jurors. While some women happily have their hair backcombed to make it "big", Mr Blair is being criticised for displaying too much natural bouffe. Now he is thought to be planning what Martin Amis calls a "rug rethink": tough on springiness, tough on the causes of springiness.

Did the *Financial Times*, which published this story on its front page yesterday, make a foliole of itself? No, this must be an urgent matter of state, since the hair piece displaced from the front page any mention of the most important election in the world. Not since Bill Clinton held up air traffic by summoning a stylist to Air Force One has the issue of hair in politics been so momentous.

Women think less of Mr Blair than do men. But is it not paranoiacal to deduce that they care more about politicians' bad hair? Surely the intricacies of monetary union, endogenous growth theory and the NHS internal market determine the pattern of women's votes? It seems not, according to Labour focus groups. To woo them back, Mr Blair must tidy up his split ends.

French politicians have no such problems. Baldness is *de rigueur* across the Channel. From de Gaulle, Pompidou and Mitterrand to Jacques Chirac, Laurent Fabius and the current Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, the shining pate is the defining characteristic. M Fabius was even voted the sexiest man in France.

In Anglo-Saxon countries, however, a good crop is a prerequisite for office. No American President could be bald. No British Prime Minister since the ill-fated Alec Douglas-Home has lacked hair. In this television age, perhaps neither Neil Kinnock nor John Smith could have made it to Number 10. William Hague and Michael Forsyth have trouble too. Mr Major, by contrast, has an unnaturally thick thatch of almost toupee-like perfection. Unlike Mr Blair's, it never seems to turn a hair, even in winds like yesterday's.

Tory politicians are sensitive to matters hirsute. Michael Heseltine has long known the effect that his blonde mane has on his admirers at party conference. Michael Portillo transformed himself from gawky schoolboy to dashing buccaneer when he swapped a fringe for a quiff. Margaret Thatcher (who changed her own colour and style nearly as often as Hillary Clinton) refused to countenance ministers with facial hair. When John Gummer shaved off his beard, he was promptly offered a job.

Political women have always been prone to sharp remarks about their hair. Shirley Williams was beset by critical letters. Barbara Castle used to don a wig called "Lucy" when she could not get to the hairdresser. Once, Lucy was snatched from her head by a piece of wire: "It was one of those nightmares one dreams about and I froze inside with embarrassment," she wrote in her diary. Now Mr Blair (whose aides are paged when his bouffe goes awry) must know how she feels.

Choosing the right Oxford school site

From Dr Mark Loney

Sir, I am concerned at the way the press have reported the debate leading article, November 5, reports, November 6) over the proposed management school at Oxford. As usual the implication is that the members of Congregation are reactionary old fuffers with nothing better to do than voting down constructive proposals and writing querulous letters to *The Times*.

As the pro-management school faction were at pains to point out in their lobbying letter to members of the Congregation last week, yesterday's vote was formally about the site not about the potential benefactor, the foundation that bears his name or the question of whether Oxford should support this subject. However, the way that the matter was presented to Congregation meant that all these issues have become inextricably entwined. Nevertheless we were asked to vote on a proposition that would overturn a formal undertaking made by Congregation that the site would be retained as an open space.

As one of the most junior members of Congregation, I do not idly support tradition for its own sake, but in this case I felt bound to uphold an undertaking that the University had made "in perpetuity". If Congregation overturns this undertaking in the forthcoming postal ballot it will clearly signal that it can no longer be trusted to uphold the values of truth and honour which it is purported to guarantee within the University.

Yours,
MARK LONEY,
New College, Oxford,
November 6.

From Dr M. J. Collins

Sir, Your leading article was a slur against those who voted in Congregation on the merits of the special resolution proposed by Hebdomadal Council. You suggested that any such vote would be a vote against the development of management studies in Oxford. Some of us would have taken the opportunity to reiterate our support for a school of management studies if that had been the question asked, but it was not. One core issue was whether the site should ever have been offered.

By its wording, the special resolution acknowledged that an unambiguous understanding was being breached. That this understanding was not spelt out as a covenant in the contract between the University and Meriton College showed that both parties were acting as gentlemen; Congregation has now upheld its belief in the dictum "A gentleman's word is his bond".

In these present days of examination of the morality of the nation, I would suggest to you that this is a principle which you should commend to your readers.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. COLLINS,
University College, Oxford.

From Mr Jeremy Pound

Sir, The assertion in today's leader that "Oxford's purpose is to teach, not to preserve grass" is not a valid argument for building a centre for business studies on centrally located playing fields. The pursuit of a main purpose does not warrant the neglect of all other responsibilities.

After all, the purpose of the Ministry of Transport is to create better communications, but no one would suggest that this gives them licence to cover the whole country in Tarmac. Moreover, teaching is only the purpose of Oxford University, whereas the city of Oxford has to perform many other functions, including serving as a tourist centre.

Tourism, which is the city's second most important industry, relies on Oxford retaining its aesthetic appeal if it is to continue to prosper, and this means that green areas in the centre must be preserved.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY POUND,
1 Walled Gardens, Radley College,
Abingdon, Oxfordshire,
November 5.

From Dr Peter Goodford

Sir, The businessmen who want this business school can see that the Oxford playing fields are a bargain, which they very naturally want to grab. Alternative central Oxford sites do exist, however. The University, its business school, the city and its people would all benefit much more if our most generous benefactor, Mr Wafic Said, decided to build his new school on a redevelopment site.

Yours sincerely,
PETER GOODFORD,
The Old Vicarage,
Ascot under Wyckwood,
Oxfordshire.

Fine defaulters

From His Honour Judge Roger Sanders

Sir, Miss Juliet Harbridge (letter, November 5) suggests that single mothers who cannot afford a television licence should dispense with their television. She displays as much sensitivity as Marie-Annohette, and we all know what happened to her.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER SANDERS,
Harrow Crown Court,
Hallstead Drive, Harrow, Middlesex.

Meeting the promises of European pensions after EMU

From Lord Taverne, QC

Sir, Your editorial on pensions and monetary union, "Europe's rash promises" (November 4), contains a strange contradiction. You oppose the proposed "stability pact" because it interferes with domestic policy. Yet you also warn that the EU may force us to raise our taxes if other countries have to raise theirs in order to meet their extravagant promises to future pensioners.

In fact, such a contingency is expressly ruled out by the Maastricht treaty, and the whole purpose of a stability pact would be to reinforce fiscal disciplines in order to stop EMU members engaging in inflationary borrowing and incurring excessive debts.

You also ignore, as did the Select Committee on Social Security (report, November 1), the substantial reforms already undertaken in key EU states to limit the cost of their pension schemes. In Italy the radical Amato and Dini reforms are likely in time to lead to a massive switch to privately funded pensions. In Germany, after recent reforms, pensions will actually be lower next year because benefits have been linked to net wages, which have declined in real terms as a result of tax increases.

In France, in addition to a reduction in state pensions as a result of a change in the basis on which they are calculated, a Bill has been introduced providing new incentives for private pensions and equity investment. There is, I believe, a need for much more to be done, particularly in France and Germany, and the sooner action is taken the less painful it will be, but there is fortunately a decade or so before the European pension crisis becomes immediate.

There will be no requirement for us to pay for European pension debts. There is no reason why we should have to increase taxes if other countries have to raise theirs to meet their obligations, as there are no plans for harmonisation of tax rates. What ever the arguments for or against our joining EMU, the pensions scare is a red herring.

Yours faithfully,
DICK TAVERNE,
House of Lords,
November 4.

From Mr R. R. Cook

Sir, In their effort to undermine the very legitimate concerns of the Select Committee on Social Security, both the Treasury and the European Commission invoke the Maastricht treaty to assure us that these concerns on pension costs are groundless. Mr Waldegrave has also said, in a recent radio interview, that no British Government would allow the EU to make British taxpayers pay for foreign pensions.

These two plays have been used many times in the past. However, may I suggest that we should be worried, not about what the last EU treaty says, but about what might be contained in the next, or the one after that.

The Treaty of Rome created the goal of an "ever closer union" — a concept with no defined end-point. Unless that phrase is removed from the EU treaties it would seem only prudent to assume that European integration will continue, inexorably, towards Spinel's dream of a United States of Europe.

Frank Field and his committee have done the people of Britain a considerable service in alerting us to just one of the long-term inevitabilities of a single

currency. Rather than rubbish such genuine concerns, Treasury mandarins should perhaps ponder whether, under the incoherent logic of this "ever closer union", their own jobs will be needed for much longer.

Similarly, Mr Waldegrave could ask whether a puppet British Government would be permitted to protect us in the way he promises.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER COOK,
Lilac Cottage,
St Austell Row,
St Mawes, Cornwall,
November 2.

From Mr Alec L. Parrott

Sir, The Social Security Select Committee has announced that there is a danger that if the UK signs up to a single European currency, the accumulated assets of our occupational pension funds may be used to reduce the unfunded debt of the Germans and other member states of the European Union.

Does not the same danger exist if the UK signs up to the social chapter? Surely one of the reasons why Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher opted out of the Community Charter of the Fundamental Social Rights of Workers in 1989 was the possibility that every worker in the European Community (as it then was) might lay claim to social security benefits provided by commercial operations as defined in the European system of integrated economic accounts?

Yours faithfully,
ALEX L. PARROTT
(Assistant Secretary, DHSS, 1972-80),
Albion Cottage,
3 Grays Lane, Ashstead, Surrey,
November 4.

Gascoigne's selection

From Mr Peter Edwards

Sir, The criticism of Glenn Hoddle implicit in the comment of the chief executive of Refugee, Sandra Horley, that "allowing Gascoigne to play for England can only give the impression that it is all right to beat your wife" (report, November 2), is, in my view, trite and illogical.

Anyone who has followed the latest episode in the saga of this country's arguably most talented and most troubled professional footballer will know that Hoddle did not stop at footballing merits when considering his decision on Gascoigne's selection. Having, apparently, made every effort to avail himself of the facts of the alleged "wife beating" incident the England football coach has discerned a serious problem and shown an admirable willingness to go beyond his brief to help to solve it, for the benefit of Mr and Mrs Gascoigne, by involving himself in the player's personal counselling. Moreover, Hoddle has unequivocally indicated that he believes wife beating, by an England

footballer or not, to be completely unacceptable (report, November 5).

On the question of role models it seems that the England coach's current critics would do well to follow his positive and pragmatic examples of professionalism and humanity.

Yours faithfully,
P. A. H. EDWARDS,
Heathcote, Loxwood Road,
Alford, Cranleigh, Surrey,
November 5.

From Mr D. H. Bryant

Sir, The selection of Gascoigne to the national squad is no longer a matter of footballing ability — rather an issue as to whether this country wishes to be represented on the world stage by such a person.

Mr Hoddle's talents could best be satisfied by resigning his role as England's coach and turning to social work.

Yours etc,
D. H. BRYANT,
63 Chilton Avenue,
Winchester, Hampshire,
November 2.

Wearing the poppy

From Mr Robert Richardson

Sir, Having been born in 1940, my memories of the Second World War are slight; however, I do recall that for long into the postwar years, virtually everybody wore a poppy as Armistice Sunday approached.

Today, it seems to me, there has been a notable change. That the young do not wear poppies for what is, to them, lost history, may be understandable, but I have noticed that neither do a great many people older than myself, whose memories must be more vivid, and frequently painful.

Is it not ironic that the freedoms that were won for us include the freedom to forget?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT RICHARDSON,
3 Park Close,
Old Hatfield, Hertfordshire,
November 5.

From Commander T. V. G. Binney, RN (ret'd)

Sir, Horiculturalists at Westminster have noted in recent years the steady advance of the PPS (Parliamentary Poppy Season).

The occasional early bloom has been replaced by striking displays as early as the fourth week in October — a phenomenon particularly noticeable in the previously sparse and patchy Labour beds.

Experts consider that, although the usual helping of farmyard manure has encouraged this early flowering, it is probably the warm glow and "feel-good" factor engendered by TV lighting that is primarily responsible for this and other signs of frenetic activity in beds both to the left and right.

Yours faithfully,
GILES BINNEY,
Close Cottage,
Rogate, Petersfield, Hampshire,
November 6.

Two-minute silence

From Brigadier Stuart Ryder

Sir, According to John Young's report, "Time to remember the sacrifice of war" (October 29), we are told that many local authorities will fire maroons to mark the beginning and end of the two-minute silence.

I hope that some of these councils may also, like Runcorn and Worthing, take the welcome step of inscribing on

their war memorials the names of local residents killed in action since the end of the Second World War.

Such an enlightened approach would record permanently the names of those who have given their lives for Queen and Country since 1945. They too should be remembered.

Yours faithfully,
STUART RYDER,
8 Shenley Hill,
Radlett, Hertfordshire.

Bishop's insults

From Canon Raymond Lee

Sir, Another true story of the wit of Bishop Montgomery Campbell (letters, October 28, November 2) is from his time as Bishop of Guildford. He lived at Farnham Castle, where young men stayed prior to their ordination.

Contrary to instructions, one escaped into town from the retreat and, on returning, met the bishop in the drive.

"I am very sorry, my Lord, but the Holy Spirit led me to do a little shopping."

"How odd you should both be mistaken," said the bishop. "It's early-closing day!"

Yours sincerely,
RAYMOND J. LEE,
15 Barkfield Lane,
Formby, Liverpool,
November 3.

From Canon W. W. Tymms

Sir, Here is a variant (and I suspect a more accurate version) of the Henon/Lang story (letter, November 2).

Archbishop Lang is reported to have told the assembled bishops that he did not like the portrait because it made him look "proud, pompous and prelatial". Whereupon Bishop Henon said: "And to which of these epithets does Your Grace object?"

Yours sincerely,
WILFRID W. TYMMS,
4 Piggy Lane, Gainford,
Darlington, Co Durham,
November 2.

Business letters, page 31

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

New prisons

From Mr T. M. Dodd

Sir, A "new" sentencing policy is being touted by the Home Secretary (report, October 26; see also letter, November 5). It has always been my experience that criminals assess the dangers involved in their activities by weighing up the chances of being caught by the police not, as he naively assumes, by how long they will be inside if they are caught.

Until he does something about the abysmal clear-up rate, the criminals will continue to laugh at his efforts.

Yours faithfully,
T. M. DODD (Prison officer, 1968-90),
78 Valley Road,
Northallerton, North Yorkshire,
November 5.

Classroom contracts

From Mr P. J. Tooke

Sir, New Labour advocates compulsory contracts between parents and their children's schools (report, October 28).

A contract is an agreement freely entered into by both parties. If there is compulsion, any document which might be signed is not a contract and we should not be surprised if parents and others do not carry out the spirit of its terms.

Good schools need committed teachers, parents and pupils: no amount of legislation will produce these.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP TOOKE,
3 Lulworth Garth,
Leeds, West Yorkshire.

Guy Fawkes week

From Mr Tim Williams

Sir, Remember, remember the 5th of November: no more, it would seem. Now it is the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th... and will probably continue until next weekend.

The cat is under the bed, shell-shocked: the rabbit trying to burrow through the floor of its hutch; and I am seeing stars (shooting, multi-coloured). How I agree with Libby Purves ("Gunpowder and Currie", November 5): let's get away from "organised" displays and bring back the small, all-on-the-same-day, garden fireworks parties before it's too late.

More and more celebrations these days seem to be migrating to the nearest, "more convenient" weekend. How long, pray, before the Archbishop of Canterbury decrees that henceforth Christmas will be held on a Saturday?

Yours explosively,
TIM WILLIAMS,
72 Keith Lucas Road,
Cove, Farnborough, Hampshire,
November 5.

Manx memories

From Mr David Read

Sir, Your reports of the election campaign on the Isle of Man (November 4) reminded me that the islanders refer to immigrants as "come-overs" (those who came to stay) and ex-colonials as "when-its" (they begin each sentence with "When I was in...").

When I was a come-over, teaching at King William's College, I recall a colleague who regularly began with the phrase "At my old school". The pupils called him Amos.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID READ (Director of Music),
Strathallan School,
Fargandenny, Perth.

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 7 1996

RM

Bank demands further rate rise

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY
ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE Bank of England yesterday issued a strong demand for higher interest rates, dashing Tory hopes that the "pre-emptive" increase in base rates announced by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, last Wednesday would assure a period of stability in mortgage rates and keep monetary policy off the pre-election agenda.

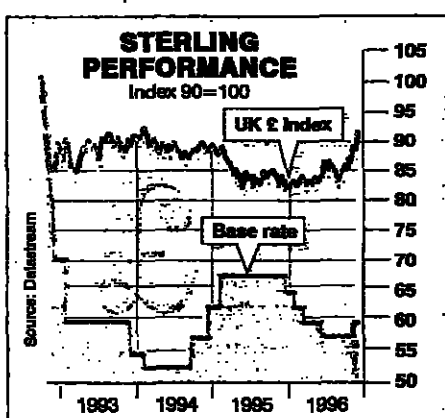
The Bank's quarterly *Inflation Report* said that last week's quarter-point increase in base rates was not sufficient to ensure that inflation would fall below the Government's 2.5 per cent target. It argued that the recent strength of sterling should not be seen as a substitute for the necessary monetary tightening. Interest rates should continue to be raised even if this caused an unwelcome further strengthening of the pound, it insisted.

The Bank, of which Eddie George is Governor, also strongly hinted that the only way for Mr Clarke to arrest

Clarke's pre-emptive strike 'too weak to contain inflation'

the rise in sterling, which is starting to disturb manufacturers and exporters, would be to announce an increase in taxes or a sharp cut in public expenditure, in the Budget this month. It added that there was now little chance of achieving the Treasury's original inflation target, which was to get underlying inflation below 2.5 per cent by the end of the present Parliament. That will give opposition parties a stick with which to beat the Chancellor in the event of a giveaway Budget.

The publication of yesterday's hard-hitting *Inflation Report* rattled the City, leading to an immediate fall in share prices, in sharp contrast to the strong gains on Wall Street and other European markets. The short-sterling futures market is now assuming that three-month rates will rise to 6.6 per cent by mid-March, implying at least another two rate increases



George: inflation target likely to be missed

between now and the general election. Sterling initially weakened in response to the Bank's misgivings about the strength of the pound. But bulls of sterling took comfort from the Bank's insistence that interest rates should be raised, regardless of the impact on sterling.

The key passage of the

Inflation Report stated: "Even after the recent increase in official interest rates, it remains more likely than not that inflation will be above the target at the end of the forecast horizon. And the short-run rise in inflation means that there is now much less chance of inflation being below 2.5 per cent during 1997. Achievement

of the inflation target remains elusive.

"The recent rise in rates should help to reinforce credibility. But what matters most is the continuous pursuit of a monetary policy which is consistent with achieving the target in the medium term. To ensure this outcome, some further rise in interest rates is

likely to become necessary in due course."

When asked about the time-scale for future rate increases, Mervyn King, the Bank's chief economist, said only that the Bank's advice would be constantly reviewed in line with the new information becoming available each month. But he hinted that another rise, which would probably lead to higher home mortgage costs, was likely in the near future, noting that the next retail prices figures were likely to show a further acceleration of inflation. The building societies' decision not to raise mortgage rates last week, he said, gave no indication of what might happen to borrowing costs "over the coming months". He added that the Bank's satisfaction with the quarter-point increase last week did not imply that future rate increases would necessarily be so small.

The *Inflation Report* went

to great lengths to deal with the argument that higher interest rates should be avoided because they would damage the economy by driving up the pound. The Bank expressed concern about the "shift in the balance of growth" from net exports to consumption and acknowledged that this would be "reinforced by the appreciation of sterling". But "it would be a mistake to try to alter the balance of recovery by pursuing an easier monetary policy in order to offset the rise in the exchange rate". If monetary policy were not tightened, Britain's "problem would become a weak, rather than a strong pound".

Although the Bank is officially not allowed to give public advice to the Chancellor on taxes and public spending, the *Inflation Report* suggested that the best way out of this policy bind was a tough Budget: "An appropriate fiscal policy can help to restrain the growth of either public or private consumption."

Pennington, page 77

Barings sues former chief over loan

By Jason Nisse

RON BAKER, the former head of derivatives at Barings who left in the wake of the Nick Leeson scandal, is being sued by the bank to recover a £100,000 loan he has allegedly failed to repay.

Barings claims that the loan was made to Mr Baker in two £50,000 tranches, the second being on February 9 last year, just two weeks before the bank learnt of the losses run up by Leeson in Singapore, which led to its collapse and rescue by ING, of The Netherlands.

The bank says Mr Baker received the loan in his capacity as a director of Baring Brothers, the merchant banking side of Barings. The bank is understood to give loans regularly to directors and staff at commercial rates, usually one percentage point above the prevailing bank base rate.

Under the terms of the loan, Barings claims that Mr Baker was supposed to pay it back at the end of June last year. It claims that it reminded him that he was due to pay it back a week before the due date and sent another demand to Mr Baker at the end of September last year. On both occasions, says the bank, Mr Baker refused to repay the loan.

Barings issued a writ against Mr Baker this week claiming £113,000, which is the loan plus interest. If he refuses to pay up, the bank could take steps to make him bankrupt. Mr Baker was

hired from Bankers Trust, the UK bank, to head the department that was nominally in charge of the trading being conducted by Nick Leeson.

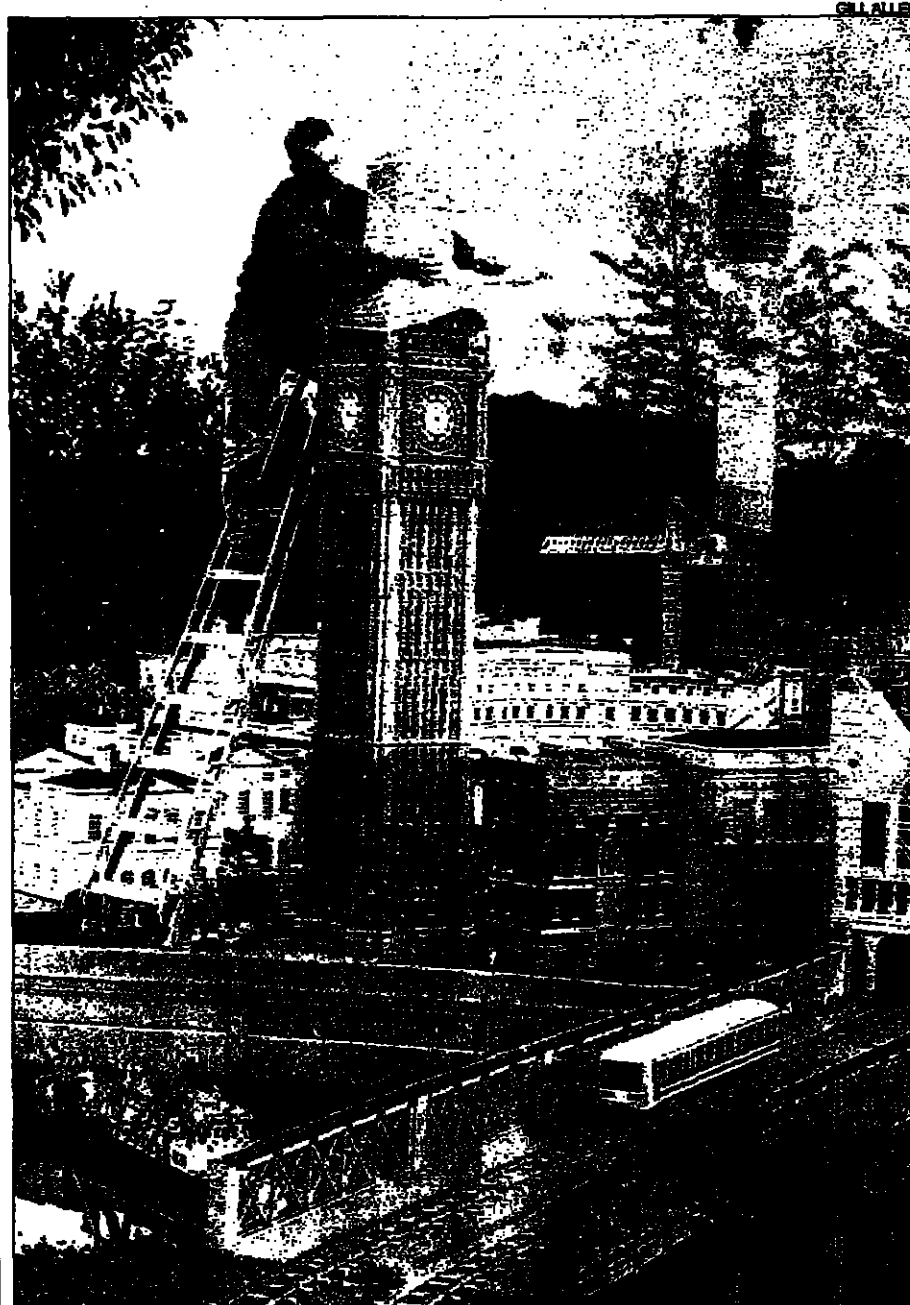
He was one of the directors who left the bank after its purchase by ING. Mary Walz, who worked directly for Mr Baker, is suing Barings for a £500,000 bonus which she said she was promised in the days before the bank's collapse, when senior executives described her as "a star".

ING paid more than £100 million in bonus payments to staff it retained, but has refused to give anything to those who left because of the scandal.

Mr Baker is believed to be considering a similar action for a bonus of the same magnitude, which he says he was told he would be paid.

Mr Baker is facing disciplinary action by the Securities and Futures Authority over his role in the Barings collapse. He is fighting the action, claiming he is a scapegoat who is being blamed for more fundamental problems at the bank.

Mr Baker was unavailable for comment last night, but Adam Epstein, of Fox Williams, his solicitor, said: "Mr Baker has a number of potential claims against people as a result of the way in which events unfolded in the wake of the bank's collapse. He is currently concentrating on clearing his name before he pursues those claims."



Touring shroud: Henrik Lykke, a model instructor, helps to wrap up Legoland in Windsor, Berkshire, for the winter yesterday, at the close of a successful first season in which more than 1.4 million tourists visited. The 150-acre site cost £55 million to develop and a further £3.5 million investment in the park will include two new rides

US utility puts East Midlands on bid alert

By CHRISTOPHER HICKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

EAST MIDLANDS Electricity was last night on bid alert after a late admission of interest from a potential American predator.

The move came just one week after CE Electric, the US joint venture, launched a hostile bid for Northern Electric.

After a huge jump in East Midlands' share price, Dominion Resources of Virginia said it had been looking to make an offer for the company. The company said its "executive management has been evaluating a potential offer for East Midlands Electricity and that the board of Dominion Resources will meet soon to consider this matter." It said it did not expect an offer much ahead of last night's closing price. East Midlands' shares jumped 70p to 607.5p yesterday, valuing the company at £1.2 billion. Dominion refused to comment further last night. It was understood to be trying to contact East Midlands yesterday.

East Midlands, one of five remaining independent regional companies, said that until there was something concrete from Dominion it could not comment.

Bid rumours have stalked East Midlands for months, with US companies tipped as the most likely contenders, but the speculation has intensified in the wake of the bid for Northern. Dominion Resources was linked with East Midlands in August, when a Virginian newspaper said the state's regulator had blocked a

£1.6 billion bid because of concerns about its ability to protect its 1.8 million domestic customers from investment risks should it go ahead.

Under federal law, utilities wanting to buy an overseas distribution business need a letter from the regulator to say such investment is unlikely to affect domestic customers. Neither Dominion nor the regulator will say if the company now has such a letter but it is believed Dominion has all necessary documentation.

East Midlands is thought likely to defend a bid.

Top gear

CAR manufacturers received the boost for which they have waited nearly six years as sales in October soared to a new record, with strong demand from private buyers.

Page 28

AT&T calls

AT&T America's biggest long-distance phone company is in talks to form a wide-ranging partnership with Vodafone but downplayed speculation that it would launch a takeover offer for the mobile phone operator.

Page 29

Airbus order from USAir may be worth up to \$18bn

By Keith Rodgers

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE, the European consortium, has clinched the world's biggest order for civilian aircraft in a deal with USAir that could be worth up to \$18 billion.

Under the agreement, USAir has placed firm orders for 120 Airbus aircraft, worth around \$5.3 billion at list price, with options over a further 280. The total deal would amount to around \$18 billion at full value, although USAir will have negotiated a substantial discount.

However, the airline, which is 24.6 per cent owned by British Airways, said the agreement is conditional upon it achieving "a competitive cost structure" through its current efficiency drive.

The deal is a blow to Boeing,

which has supplied 737 and 757 aircraft to the airline, and to McDonnell Douglas, which was also considered for the deal. USAir said Airbus was chosen because it has "the right combination of aircraft and delivery schedules", adding that it will now look at purchasing additional aircraft for its wide-body fleet, which consists of Boeing 767s.

Delivery of the first tranche of Airbus A319, A320 and A321 aircraft is expected to start next year. The second phase — a reconfirmable order — accounts for a further 120, and Airbus has options over another 160 with open-ended delivery dates. USAir hopes to reduce training and maintenance costs by replacing four of the existing aircraft families

in its 400-strong narrow-body fleet with the one Airbus family while retaining the bulk of its Boeing fleet.

The first tranche brings the total number of firm orders for Airbus to 408 this year, and is the fifth US order this year. British Aerospace, which designs and manufactures Airbus wings and fuel systems, plans a 50 per cent increase in Airbus-related production next year. It has already hired 250 extra staff at its Chester and Filton plants.

USAir has yet to decide on an engine supplier. It is looking at both Rolls-Royce and a General Electric consortium.

USAir has been an outspoken critic of British Airways' planned alliance with American Airlines.

Wall Street celebrates Clinton win

WALL STREET has celebrated the US presidential election result that it was hoping for with a two-day rally that has taken the Dow Jones industrial average to a new high (Richard Thompson writes from New York).

In the first hour of trading yesterday after the election of Bill Clinton to the White House for a second term, the Dow leapt nearly 40 points, to 6,116.22. This followed a rise on Tuesday, in anticipation of the election result, of 39.50 points.

The economy has thrived under President Clinton, and the budget deficit has fallen sharply, which has pleased financial markets.

US bond markets held steady, with the benchmark 30-year Treasury bond yield at 6.60.

Society speculators elude windfall curb

By Anne Ashworth

THE Government will not curb the activities of speculators who open building society accounts hoping for a windfall bonus if the society converts to a bank, or is taken over.

Despite pressure from the societies, Angela Knight, the Economic Secretary, has decided not to strengthen the "two-year rule" that allows only those investors of two years' standing to benefit from mergers or flotations. The rule has proved relatively easy to circumvent, with newcomers or "carpetbaggers" offered shares, rather than cash.

In place of a tightening of the "two-year rule", the Building Societies Bill contains a proposal to allow only those investors of two years' standing access to a society's register of members. Mrs Knight

explained that making it more difficult to obtain a register would prevent disruptive groups from contacting members to lobby for the conversion or takeover of a society.

The Bill would also remove the five-year takeover protection that covers a society once it becomes a bank if it went on the acquisition trail. The Halifax Building Society has said it can do without this safeguard. But if the Bill becomes law before the Alliance & Leicester and Woolwich conversions, it would cause them to rethink their predatory ambitions.

Mike O'Brien, Shadow Economic Secretary, commented: "All the building societies asked for protection for members against mere speculators. The Government has refused to listen to them."

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TIMES 7-1996

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Car industry given boost by return of private buyers

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING EDITOR

CAR manufacturers yesterday received the boost for which they have waited nearly six years as sales in October soared to a new record.

Registrations of new cars jumped 13.27 per cent against the corresponding month last year to 154,733, the highest October figure.

However, the best news from the figures, issued by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, was that private buyers — missing from showrooms since the recession — were back in big numbers. Sales to private customers rose 21 per cent last month, while company car sales were also ahead with an increase of 7.48 per cent.

October's mini-boom means that registrations for the year so far stand at 1,811,967, up 4.69 per cent on the ten-month total for last year, and give the industry the chance to register the highest sales total for new

car sales since 1990. Roger King, the society's public affairs director, said: "These figures are most encouraging, particularly the rise in private registrations."

Industry analysts were speculating that publicity surrounding last month's British International Motor Show at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre had encouraged a burst of activity in showrooms. Ironically, attendances at the show were down this year and the society is waiting to see November's figures before it confirms any trend.

However, buyers have witnessed a blitz of new model launches this autumn, from Jaguar's new XK8 to Ford's new city model, the Ka.

Vauxhall has also revamped its best-selling Vectra and Ford its Mondeo, so chances are high that buyers have been biding their time, waiting for the appearance of the new cars

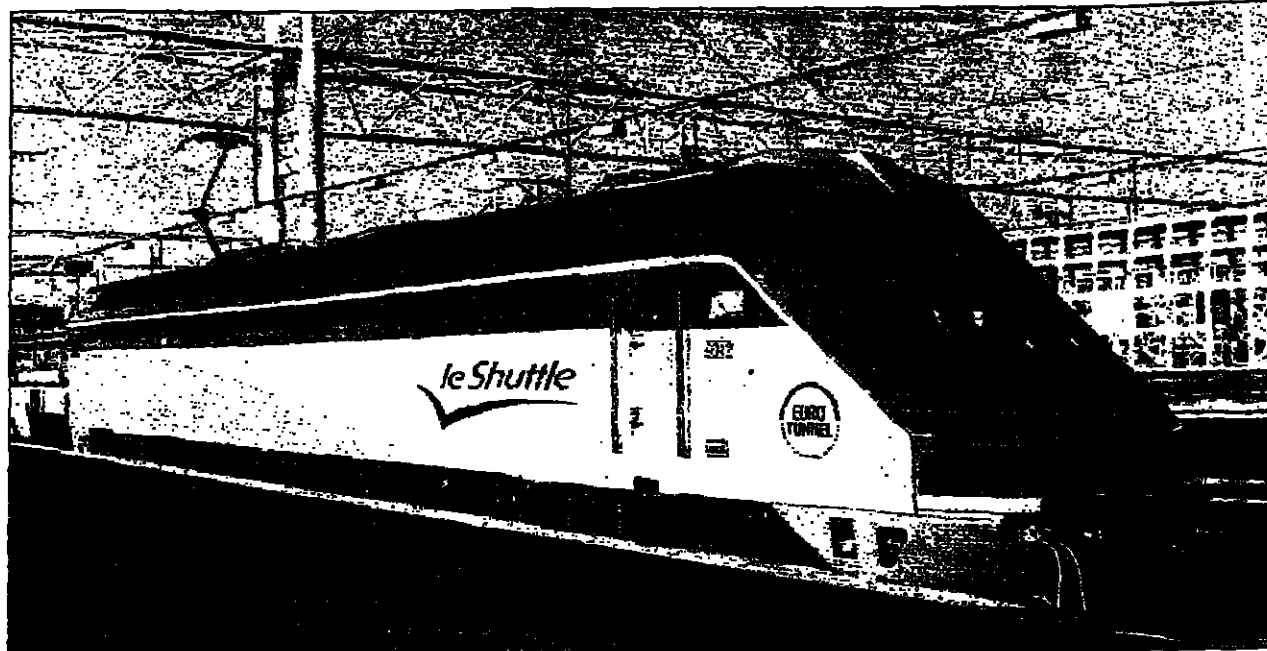
entering showrooms for the first time last month.

Ford enjoyed a good month with sales up nearly 6,000 on last October. Vauxhall was also up, but Rover and BMW were down.

The wave of interest in the XK8 helped Jaguar to improve by almost 100 sales to 786 cars. Rolls-Royce, which sold 24 cars in October, 1995, sold 36 cars this time.

Peugeot, Volkswagen, Fiat, Mazda, and Mitsubishi also enjoyed sales increases, while Hyundai sold 1,470 cars compared with only 529 in October, 1995, strengthened by a new model range.

The top ten best-sellers in October were: Ford Fiesta (11,551), Ford Mondeo (9,361), Ford Escort (8,355), Vauxhall Vectra (7,294), Vauxhall Astra (6,829), Vauxhall Corsa (6,421), Peugeot 306 (4,894), Volkswagen Golf (4,843), Rover 400 (4,810) and Rover 200 (4,003).



Le Shuttle shrugged off gale-force winds of last month to double its Dover-Calais traffic volume of a year ago

Le Shuttle wins almost half traffic to Calais

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

LE SHUTTLE is close to seizing half the market for transporting vehicles on the Dover-Calais route, new traffic figures released yesterday by Eurotunnel reveal.

In October, its best month this year apart from August, Le Shuttle transported 241,300 cars, motorcycles, trailers, caravans and camper vans — double the number it carried a year ago and nearly 50 per cent of all the vehicles using the route. Le Shuttle also carried 7,700 coaches, compared with 3,900 a year ago.

According to Eurotunnel the gale-force winds and high seas of last month helped boost its figures. Le Shuttle Freight achieved a new record in October, carrying 60,400 lorries, a 12 per cent increase on the previous high in July and 42 per cent up on October last year.

Eurostar passengers rose 52 per cent year-on-year in October to 498,200. A bank holiday weekend in France meant a good start to November, with cars equal to the numbers seen in July and August.

Cobham flies high on £500m deal

By KENNETH RODGERS

SHARES of Cobham, the engineering and aerospace group, were lifted yesterday on confirmation that a three-way venture involving the company has won a £500 million Ministry of Defence order.

FBS, a venture between FR Aviation, a subsidiary of Cobham, Bristow Helicopter

Group and Serco, was awarded the contract for the newly created joint service Defence Helicopter Flying School. It will supply 47 helicopters, together with training services in a 15-year deal beginning next April.

Although the venture gives equal shareholdings to the three parent companies, it is

understood that Cobham will receive more than a third of the revenue because of the way the work is subcontracted.

Giles Irwin, finance director, said payment will be made in 13 instalments every year.

FR Aviation and Serco already have a joint venture serving RAF Shawbury, one of the two training sites. Bristow

will be responsible for support services at Middle Wallop, where it already operates.

Cobham also announced yesterday that FR Aviation had won a three-year, £2 million order to supply low-speed target towing services to the Royal Navy.

Cobham's shares registered a rise of 9p to 581½p.

RBB gives new chief four-year contract

THE German chief executive of RBB, the £1.3 billion roof tile business being created by Redland, will have a £250,000-a-year contract that will not expire until November 2000. Erich Gerlach's contract — only extended earlier this year — is much longer than the one year regarded as best practice under the Greenbury guidelines. Herr Gerlach, chief executive of Braas, the German roofing business that will form the bulk of RBB, is expected to become a Redland main board director. In addition, Herr Gerlach is entitled to a yearly bonus of 0.095 per cent of Braas Group's profits. Last year this would have been worth nearly £215,000.

These details emerged as Redland reported that it had the go-ahead from the German tax authorities to form RBB. The deal, announced in April, will see Redland merge its roofing interests with those of Braas, in which it already holds a 50.8 per cent stake. Redland will receive £220 million in cash, and will own 56.5 per cent of the enlarged business. Redland's shareholders must still give their approval for the deal at an extraordinary general meeting on November 27. *Tempos, page 30*

Power deal in Turkey

NATIONAL POWER, the biggest electricity generator in the United Kingdom, yesterday signed its fifth international deal in as many months with a £26 million share in a new power station in Turkey. National Power, which has invested £900 million in overseas operations, has taken a third stake in the Turkish venture. Its partners are from Japan and Luxembourg. Work on the combined cycle gas turbine, which is situated 100 kilometres from Istanbul, will start next month and production is expected to start late next year.

Hicking Pentecost up

HICKING PENTECOST, the threads, knitwear and industrial products company, yesterday sought to reassure investors about its prospects by unveiling its results for the half-year to the end of September, showing a 13 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £3.84 million. The company, which brought forward publication of its financial results in response to a number of gloomy trading statements in its sector, said that its earnings per share rose by 11 per cent, to 12.4p. The interim dividend is lifted by 14 per cent, to 2.4p. The shares rose by 5p, to 310½p, yesterday.

BSkyB joint venture

BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times, yesterday formed an Internet-advertising joint venture with OzeMail, an Australian Internet service provider. Each will contribute equally to the venture and OzeMail has granted BSKyB a two-year option to acquire two million OzeMail shares, equivalent to 15 per cent of the company, at US\$14 each. Elisabeth Murdoch, BSKyB's general manager of broadcasting, and Malcolm Turnbull, OzeMail chairman, have been appointed co-chairmen of the joint venture.

Texas's \$2bn auction

TEXAS Instruments has begun to auction its defense electronics businesses, valued at about \$2 billion, according to Wall Street sources. Potential buyers are said to include McDonnell Douglas, the aerospace manufacturer. Shares of Texas rose 7 per cent to \$52 in early trading yesterday amid speculation that a deal would be announced shortly. The businesses include operations that make missile sensors and seekers, advanced aircraft radars and night vision systems. Other potential bidders include the Hughes Electronics subsidiary of General Motors.

Britt Allcroft off to flyer

SHARES in Britt Allcroft Company, which owns the rights to Thomas the Tank Engine and Muffin the Elephant, climbed 23 per cent yesterday as it made its debut on the Stock Exchange. The company, which is partly owned by the husband and wife team of Angus Wright and Britt Allcroft, placed 8.5 million shares at 130p per share and issued 3.8 million new shares to raise £4.2 million. The shares finished the day at 159.5p, valuing the company at £37.5 million.

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Canada \$	2.28	2.19	Norway Kr	11.09	10.29
Cyprus Cyp	0.78	0.74	Portugal Esc	266.5	266.5
Denmark Kr	10.20	9.40	S Africa Rd	8.30	7.30
Finland Mk	5.12	4.71	Sweden Kr	217.50	204.30
France Fr	6.52	6.21	Switzerland Fr	11.50	10.70
Germany Dm	2.80	2.45	Taiwan Nt	165.00	155.00
Greece Dr	402	392	Thailand Ba	1.74	1.63
Hong Kong \$	10.30	12.26	Turkey Lira	1.25	1.25
Iceland	115	87	UK £	1.00	1.00
Ireland P	1.50	0.87	USA \$	0.67	0.67
Israel Sh	5.50	4.50	Yugoslavia D	202.00	188.00
Italy Lira	2010	2494			
Japan Yen	202.00	188.00			

BT taps into £1bn MoD contract

New job

□ Chancellor faces interest rate dilemma □ Harsh questions for publisher □ PowerGen rewrites the script

Clarke's no-win situation

INFLATION, interest rates, sterling: the prospects for each hinge on whether Kenneth Clarke has already given up on winning the next election. It would perhaps be better for the economy if he has. But on this analysis, Mr Clarke has the choice of handing over a healthy economy to Gordon Brown or doing his bit to ensure the Conservatives inherit a rerun of the disasters of the late 1980s.

Of such choices is politics made. The Bank of England's latest inflation report suggests we are heading for a rerun of the past few months, with a Chancellor at loggerheads with the Bank as pressure for higher base rates, in the form of worsening inflation figures, grows. Unless, of course, Mr Clarke has already conceded, in his own mind, that rates will have to rise again before the election.

The Bank believes that its earlier reports were too optimistic on inflation for unimportant reasons, such as higher oil prices that provide only a one-off boost, and for more important ones, price rises that reflected genuine higher demand. In its view there is now no chance of meeting the government's target of 2.5 per cent inflation by the end of this Parliament and the election.

Last week's quarter-point base rate rise was merely a reversal of that last, unjustified cut in interest rates in June, therefore. If the Bank has accepted that a further rise will be needed, then expect the first of a series of ritual calls for another quarter-point rise as early as next month's Ken and Eddie meeting, and no later than January's.

The Bank says the rise in sterling, up by 8.3 per cent and counting in the three months since the last inflation report, is an irrelevance, because when consumer spending threatens higher inflation there is no point in expecting a rising exchange rate to head this off. Higher sterling, if inflation rises, will become self-correcting; we will end up, as in the late 1980s, with a weak pound instead.

Mr Clarke must decide whether to sanction higher base rates, which would lead automatically to clearer mortgages and a feel-worse factor, ahead of the election—always on the assumption that the building societies do

not anticipate any such decision by moving their rates up beforehand. He has been here before, and headed off Bank pressure on rates until inflation started to move down again. If he is tempted to bluff it out, this might half sterling's rise. But if the higher pound is more to do with events on the Continent than in the UK economy, it will not, in which case Mr Clarke will find himself assailed on both sides, by the Bank and by British industry. But he has been there before as well.

Emap rebels face the chop

FAMILY rows are best conducted in private, but the civil warfare on the board of Emap, the magazine publisher, has been embarrassingly public. Emap shareholders should by today have received both sides of the argument, on which they must base their vote at a special meeting on December 2.



The outcome of that vote is hardly in doubt. The two rebel non-executives who are trying to keep their jobs will go. They need a 50 per cent vote to survive, and it is inconceivable that the company's institutional shareholders, having seen the value of their investment fall 12 per cent from the year's high point since the row broke, will back two outsiders against the other 11. The best they can hope for is a good platform to plead their case with investors.

Their interpretation of events leading up to the rift does not accord with that of the rest of the board. The rebels, Joe Cooke,

vice-chairman of The Telegraph, and Ken Simmonds, of the London Business School, say Sir John Hoskyns, the Emap chairman, gave reassurances in July that new powers proposed for directors would not be used to remove them from office. But action against them to do just that started almost immediately.

Sir John tells shareholders this action had not been planned beforehand, but was only taken after the two accused him of not telling the truth. This was unacceptable, and they had to go. He did not break his promise and use the new powers to throw them out, because the old ones were quite sufficient, thank you.

What is clear is that the board is split, and the two do not lack support elsewhere. Emap has chosen to bring its interim figures forward by a week to next Monday. The questioning will not be limited to the financial figures. Of particular interest will be the views of David Arculus, the managing director, and his relationship with Robin

Miller, chief executive, and the other main driving force behind the company. Mr Arculus is thought to support the rebels, and to have fallen out with Mr Miller over other matters of corporate governance. He is unlikely to get away without straight answers.

Alternating currents

LOGICAL inconsistencies (Part 1): Ed Wallis, chairman of PowerGen, was up before the Trade and Industry Select Committee yesterday. Talk came around to the failed bid for Midlands Electricity, blocked by the Government. He told the committee this was triggered in January last year by talks over the sale of some power stations ordered by the regulator. Another power company, Eastern, was a possible buyer, which would have put generation and distribution assets under one roof for the first time since privatisation. "If that is the way

it is going then we have no choice but to follow," said Mr Wallis. This does not entirely coincide with the way the deal was sold to the City eight months later, amid much talk of taking advantage of this and Midlands' expertise at that. Nothing about follow-my-leader then. But Mr Wallis's views have changed equally dramatically on plans to challenge the government block in the courts. Judicial review "was a non-option for us", he told Parliament, citing complex legal arguments. But back in April this year, it was being actively considered; any suggestion to Mr Wallis then of legal difficulties was sternly dismissed.

Blurred picture

LOGICAL inconsistencies (Part 2): The Independent Television Commission let Scottish TV buy Caledonian Publishing even though its 20 per cent shareholder, Mirror Group, owns much of the Scottish media. The ITC said Mirror did not exert a significant influence. Strangely, in Mirror's accounts Scottish TV is treated as an associate. The accounts' definition of associates? "Undertakings over which it is in a position to exert a significant interest."

BT taps into £1bn MoD contract

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A CONSORTIUM led by British Telecom has won a £1 billion contract to supply and manage a new voice and data telecommunications system for the Ministry of Defence, linked to every military base in the country.

The deal, which represents the largest privatisation scheme agreed by the MoD under the Government's Private Finance Initiative, could put more than 1,000 military jobs at risk, although the consortium is expected to employ many of the current staff.

The new defence fixed telecommunications system (DFTS) that will replace the five existing networks, will cost about £700 million. MoD sources said that using the new tariffed service would cost the ministry another £300 million over the next ten years.

Subject to negotiations, the privatisation contract is to be placed with the Inca consortium, headed by BT in conjunction with Lockheed Martin, Oasis, an expert in service management, and GEC-Marconi.

The MoD sources said that Inca had offered better value for money than the rival consortium led by Racal Managed Defence Services. The ministry hopes to save about £150 million over the next ten years.

The Inca consortium will take over the telecommunications responsibilities currently carried out by about 1,200 MoD staff, half of whom are military, who are expected to be given other jobs, although some have already been earmarked for redundancy under the ministry's Defence Cost Study, announced in 1994.

Under the privatisation scheme, the consortium will also manage the most sensitive and highly secure "core military" element, which covers emergency calls. The section will remain under MoD ownership.

The BT consortium will accept the risk of operating the system and will be expected to inject further capital in the future, which would otherwise have had to be found by the MoD. The total system will take four years to install, although the bulk of the new communications will be in place within 12 months of the final contract being signed.

AT&T in talks to form alliance with Vodafone

By ERIC REGULY

AT&T, America's biggest long-distance telephone company, is in talks to form a wide-ranging partnership with Vodafone, but the company played down speculation that it would launch a takeover offer for the mobile phone operator.

Rumours have been circulating since the weekend, when BT revealed that it will pay about \$20 billion for MCI of America, that AT&T would make an acquisition of its own in the telecoms sector.

Vodafone, with a market capitalisation of about £7.5 billion, is the largest of the four British mobile phone companies and has a significant overseas presence.

AT&T sources said that AT&T probably would not buy Vodafone because an acquisition

of that size would divert financial and management resources from its core American market at a time when they are needed most.

The merged BT-MCI group, to be called Concert, poses the biggest threat yet to AT&T's domestic and international expansion plans. The company is spinning off its manufacturing and computer divisions to concentrate on telephone services and wants American regulators to block the BT-MCI merger.

AT&T, however, wants to form a partnership with Vodafone that would stop short of actual equity links. It has stated that it wants to offer mobile phone services to its residential customers. It could do so through Vodafone, with customers receiving a single

bill for their fixed and mobile phone services.

AT&T would also like to carry Vodafone's calls to the US and perhaps strike a transatlantic "roaming" agreement, which would allow Vodafone and AT&T customers to use their mobile phones in each other's markets.

Vodafone shares ended the day unchanged at 246p, while BT shares lost 3½p to close at 366½p as concerns grew that US regulatory approval for its deal with MCI may be hard won.

Lord Tebbit, a former Conservative Party chairman, has retired as a non-executive director of BT. He joined the board in 1987.

The Concert party, page 31

Deutsche Telekom in demand with investors

By OUR CITY STAFF

DEMAND for shares in Germany's state-owned Deutsche Telekom telephone company is outstripping the supply, raising the likelihood that the shares will be sold at near the top end of their expected price range later this month.

Bankers said that the initial public offering of 500 million shares, equivalent to 20 per cent of the company, is already more than four times oversubscribed, with a surprisingly high level of interest coming from individual German investors.

Yesterday was the deadline for share-purchase applica-

tions to be made by retail investors.

The strong demand in Germany means that domestic buyers, both institutional and retail, will probably be given the opportunity to buy about 70 per cent of the DM15 billion issue, up from the original forecast of 62 per cent to 67 per cent. Investors in the United Kingdom are likely to take 8 per cent to 12 per cent.

Deutsche Telekom, Europe's largest telephone company, last month announced an indicated price range of DM25 to DM30 a share. Analysts now think that the

final price will range from DM27 to DM29.50.

The German Government is unlikely to insist on a DM30 price because it wants to raise the probability that the shares will increase in value after trading commences on November 18.

The price will set on November 16 and will be announced the next day.

Other European governments are said to be encouraged by the response to the Deutsche Telekom issue from investors. The French Government plans to privatise France Telecom next spring.

UK petrol venture for Elf

By CARL MORTISHED

ELF, the French oil multinational, has teamed up with Chevron and Murphy Petroleum, to pool UK refining and petrol station interests with the loss of up to 500 jobs.

Elf UK, Chevron's Gulf Oil subsidiary and Murphy Petroleum have agreed to combine their interests into a new company, with Elf and Gulf each owning 41.25 per cent while Murphy will own the remaining 17.5 per cent. The partners estimate they will share £50 million in cost reductions from consolidating

two refinery operations into one at Milford Haven. The joint venture will retain the 108,000 barrel per day Elf/Murco refinery but Gulf's



115,000 bpd refinery will cease production but be retained as a storage or blending facility. Gulf will also sell its half share in a catalytic cracker in nearby

Pembroke to its partner, Texaco. Some 250-300 jobs could go at the refineries with the rest in administration.

The three-way deal follows a downstream tie-up between BP and Mobil over European refining and marketing. Elf had been trying to sell its downstream interests in the UK.

The new venture will have about 1,500 petrol stations and a market share of some 8 per cent, fourth largest after Esso, Shell and BPP/Mobil.

Tempos, page 30

New job hopes for old coalfields

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A HUGE regeneration of disused coalfields started yesterday in a government-backed plan that it is hoped will raise more than £1 billion in investment and create 55,000 jobs.

No new money will go to tackle disused coal sites in areas hit by high levels of unemployment but the Department of the Environment has committed about £385 million over ten years through English Partnerships, the development agency it funds. English Partnerships predicts that

a further £850 million will be provided by the private sector to regenerate areas in the North East, North West, Yorkshire and the Midlands.

English Partnerships has based its predictions for future private investment and job creation for the 56 coalfields on previous regeneration work.

John Gummer, Environment Secretary, said: "I am convinced the benefits for the coalfields' communities will be considerable and that this new agreement ensures the best possible future for the coalfield sites in the North of England."

Sandy Dodds, of the Coalfields Com-

munities Campaign, welcomed the development scheme but said it was long overdue. He said the prospects for jobs were hopeful but compared poorly with the 230,000 jobs lost in mining and related areas since 1985.

English Partnerships said that businesses committing to the development zones are likely to benefit from enterprise zone allowances as well as other development agency incentives. The deal between British Coal and English Partnerships to pass over the land to be regenerated is thought to be the biggest enterprise of its kind.



Mike Firth has resumed the role of chief executive

Loss warning at Yorkshire Foods eats into value

By PAUL DURMAN

YORKSHIRE FOODS is in talks with its bankers after issuing a warning that losses may incur exceed £10 million.

Mike Firth, chairman of Yorkshire, and his colleagues were said to be having "constructive discussions" with banks, headed by NatWest and Rabobank of The Netherlands, about the level of financial support that the company needs. A spokeswoman was unable to say whether Yorkshire was in breach of its banking covenants.

Yesterday's profit warning, the second in three months, caused shares in Yorkshire to lose a third of their worth, falling 14p to 28½p—valuing the company at less than £13 million. It is believed that Yorkshire's losses may be as great as £18 million. Shareholders' funds amount to around £32 million.

Through a series of deals since joining the stock market three years ago, the company has turned itself into a dried fruit and nut company and blames US operations for its problems.

Del Monte Corporation has ended its agreement to distribute Yorkshire's raisins and prunes from next June. Sales have already suffered as a result, while a poor raisin crop will do further damage. A third problem is the fluctuating prices of almonds and other crops, which will cost Yorkshire £6 million. The company incurred first-half losses of £4.1 million.

Mr Firth has resumed the role of chief executives that he relinquished last March.

Dole Food Company of the US has increased its stake in Yorkshire from 6.86 per cent to 9.66 per cent.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Recs shares charged up by American bid rumours

SHARES in the regional electricity companies were highly charged last night by another burst of speculative buying after it emerged that an American company is poised to bid for East Midlands Electricity.

The announcement from Dominion Resources came after the official close of business and was prompted by intense speculation that sent East Midlands up 70p to close at 607.5p in heavy turnover. By the close, a total of 3.07 million shares had changed hands in a market where traders will normally make a price in 25,000 at a time.

Word is that the Dominion team, has been in town for the past week. Last night Dominion said it would not be making an offer much above East Midlands' closing price.

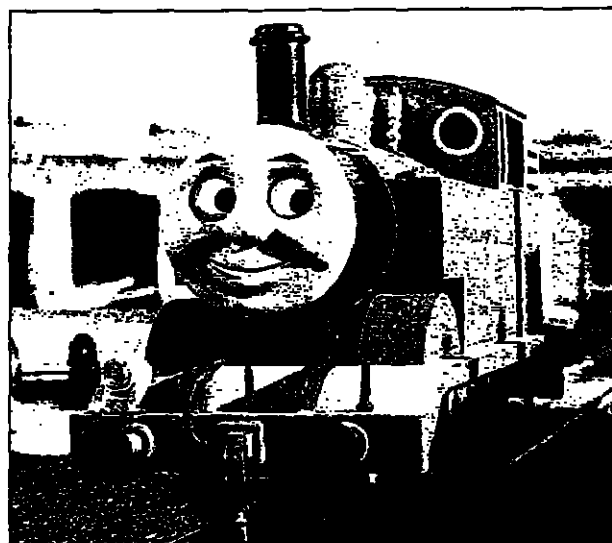
City speculators had already taken the view that something was afoot and had been talking of an opening salvo of 600p a share, valuing the group at £1.34 billion. Along with Dominion, other names being mentioned as potential bidders were Energy, of New Orleans, and Houston Industries.

Northern Electric, which rejected a £766 million offer from CE Electric, ended the session 2p cheaper at 630p. But speculative buying among the few remaining independent regional electricity companies (Recs) was good for Southern Electric, up 2.5p at 669p, Yorkshire, 15p to 754p, and London, 12p to 617p.

The power generators continued to make headway on the back of bullish noises from brokers. PowerGen rose 7p to 541.5p, while National Power climbed 15.5p to 433p and Scottish Power added 3.5p to 319p.

The rest of the market gave an initial thumbs-up to President Clinton's next four-year term. But any celebrations were cut short by the Bank of England's call for a further interest rate rise, just a week after initiating the first increase for two years. In its latest inflation report, the Bank says action will need to be taken to counter growing inflationary pressures.

The FT-SE 100 index, which had been up 25.4 earlier in the day, moved into negative territory before recovering its composure by taking advantage of an opening 50-point rise by the Dow Jones industrial average on Wall Street. The index eventually closed up 14.6 at



Thomas the Tank Engine helped Brit Allcoff to a premium

3,935.7 in thin trading that saw less than 700 million shares change hands.

The continuing strength of the pound on currency markets was posing problems for overseas earners. RMC Group lost 25p at £10.46p, ICI 9p at 758p and Blue Circle Industries 7.5p at 353.5p.

Talk that Rascal Electronics

Consumer confidence may be improving but the National Lottery is still making big inroads into the profits of Britain's bingo operators. That's the view of NatWest Securities, the broker, which has downgraded its 1996 pre-tax profit forecast for First Leisure by £2.5 million to £40 million. First Leisure fell 12p to 348.5p.

may have lost out to BT in a £1 billion telecoms defence contract left its shares 9p off at 266.5p. BT ran into further profit-taking on the back of its MCI acquisition, with the price slipping 3.5p to 366.5p.

EMI Group fell 6.5p to £11.90 after learning of a 53 per cent fall in profits at Sony's music division.

Confirmation that Airbus Industrie had received a £5

son, publisher of the *Financial Times*, fell 4.5p to 720.5p after Capel downgraded its recommendation from a "buy" to a "hold".

Brit Allcoff, owner of the rights to the Thomas the Tank Engine books, opened at a useful premium when the shares made their public debut. Floated at 130p and valuing the company at £30 million, the price quickly

climbed to 162p before settling at 159p, a premium of 29.5p.

Evidence of a slowdown in growth left Electrocomponents 5p cheaper at 417.5p. The group managed to raise profits in the first six months by almost 16 per cent to £48.3 million, but brokers said there was likely to be a further slowdown in the second half. Most estimates for the full year range between £112 million and £114 million.

Benson Group responded to the news that David Rhead, chairman, had picked up an extra 50,000 shares at 44p. It raises his total stake to 200,000 shares, or less than 1 per cent. The price closed 6.5p dearer at 465p.

Brooke Industrial Holdings, the precision engineer, was a nervous market, falling 7.5p to 122.5p. The group is due to go ex-rights this week-end on its one-for-one rights issue at 125p. The £4.3 million being raised will be used to acquire APW and invest in further plant.

Yorkshire Food plunged 14p to 28.5p after it gave warning of hefty losses by its US operations. The fall was compounded by the news that the group does not intend to pay a dividend.

GLT-EDGED: Shorter-dated issues came under selling pressure after the surprise call by the Bank of England for another hike in interest rates. The strength of the pound is also worrying the market. Bond prices in London underperformed overseas markets, although the emergence of a few cheap buyers enabled prices to close above their worst of the day.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt finished a couple of ticks better at £109.3 after briefly touching £109.2. A total of 112,000 contracts had been completed by the close of business. There was a further flattening of the yield curve as Treasury 8 per cent 2015 rose three ticks to £101.9, while in shorts, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 eased £3.5 to £102.1.

NEW YORK: Shares rallied as investors cheered the outcome of the elections and hoped that the combination of President Clinton in The Oval Office and the Republicans in control of Capitol Hill would ensure happy days ahead. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average stood at 6,133.36, up 52.18 points.

NEW YORK (midday)

Dow Jones 6133.36 (+52.18)
S&P Composite 770.49 (+8.53)

Tokyo

Nikkei Average 20991.52 (+595.19)

Hong Kong

Hang Seng 12775.47 (+272.77)

Amsterdam

EOE Index 589.42 (+3.40)

Sydney

AD 2360.6 (+1.0)

Frankfurt

DAX 2739.19 (+37.00)

Singapore

Straits 2080.45 (+10.22)

Brussels

General 5999.80 (+47.54)

Paris

CAC-40 2231.37 (+26.05)

Zurich

SIX 801.00 (+4.70)

London

FT 30 2786.7 (+5.7)

FT 100 3035.7 (+14.4)

FTSE Mid 250 4413.9 (+6.7)

FTSE 250 5964.9 (+10.0)

FTSE Eurotrack 100 1775.56 (+16.7)

FT All-Share 1940.26 (+6.08)

FT Non Financials 2026.45 (+3.91)

FT Real Estate 111.38 (+0.28)

FT Govt Secs 75.84 (+0.04)

Bargains 4001

US\$ Volume 200.35 (+0.13)

US\$ (Discount) 1.0418 (-0.0002)

German Mark 2.4896 (-0.0003)

Exchange Index (100) 91.1 (+0.3)

Bank of England official rate (4pm)

5.25%

ESX 1.2018

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More refined partners

AFTER endless rumours of disposals and closures, Elf has finally come up with a solution for its UK downstream business with a three-way joint venture. The long wait is no particular fault of Elf; currently, this is a terrible business to be in. No one is making any money from making gasoline in Europe, and in the UK alone there is a five million tonne surplus from which retailers, including the supermarket groups, can draw supplies.

Elf, Gulf and Murco will make immediate savings from shunting their assets into the new company, but the £50 million mentioned yesterday will not go far between three companies. However, those are just the immediate benefits of collapsing two plants into one facility at Milford Haven and removing duplicate administrations.

More interesting is the wider impact of the deal on competitors. The shutdown of production at Gulf's refinery might take out some two million tonnes of gasoline production, not nearly enough to remove the surplus but an improvement nonetheless. The question is whether Shell still remains under pressure to close its Shell Haven facility on the Thames estuary. That operation had a useful retail customer in South-East England in the form of BP. But earlier this year BP chose to throw in its lot with Mobil in a European joint venture and Mobil also has a refinery on the Thames estuary. Bigger questions face smaller players, such as Texaco and Conoco who may now be feeling the pressure to become bigger. The new venture will have an impressive 8 per cent of the market. In the circumstances, no one wants to be left without a partner when the music stops.

Redland

REDLAND has finally secured the tax clearance that was holding up the merger of its own roof tile business with that of Braas, the 50.76 per cent subsidiary that dominates the German roofing industry. This is a good move for Redland as Braas is a much more profitable business having retained control over distribution that Redland has surrendered. The £220 million payment that Braas is making will also save tax for RBB, as the enlarged business will be known.

But none of this makes the outlook better for the German housing industry. An interest rate cut in August prompted a rally in those UK building stocks that depend on Germany. This looks misguided. Quite apart from the much lower level of

home ownership in

Germany, many borrowers there are locked into long-term fixed-rate loans. Any move to new housebuilding would have been minuscule.

Potentially more damaging is the reduction in tax breaks available on new housing in the former East Germany. This brought forward a surge of activity in the

East this summer, but that benefit is coming to an end. Some commentators expect building activity in the East to fall very sharply indeed.

This does not damage the long-term logic in creating the world's largest roofing group. But Redland's shares could face some difficult months. The same is true of RMC and Blue Circle.



Cobham

A WARNING about second-half profits earlier this month completely overshadowed news of a pending helicopter deal. The share price dropped 6 per cent at the time but the market now seems to have decided the reaction was excessive.

That, at least, is one logical explanation for the 9p rise in the share price yesterday after confirmation of the £500 million Ministry of Defence order, which will be divided between Cobham and its two joint venture partners. The problem highlighted at the half year — a slowdown at Westwind, its recently acquired electronics subsidiary — seems to have been put in some perspective.

Certainly, the company still has admirers, who point to its management strength and its seeming ability to win the bulk of the major training and equipment contracts it goes for. Forecasts for the full year may have been shaved

Luminar

LONDON may now wear the international crown of fashion, but Luminar, the disco and restaurant group, is making its millions by avoiding the capital and building its empire through realising the local hopes.

The company's Chicago Rock Cakes are not dissimilar to Rank's Hard Rock Cakes — packed with Jimi Hendrix memorabilia and other sacred relics of rock music. But while Rank boasts that its cafes are among the most famous in the world, Luminar is

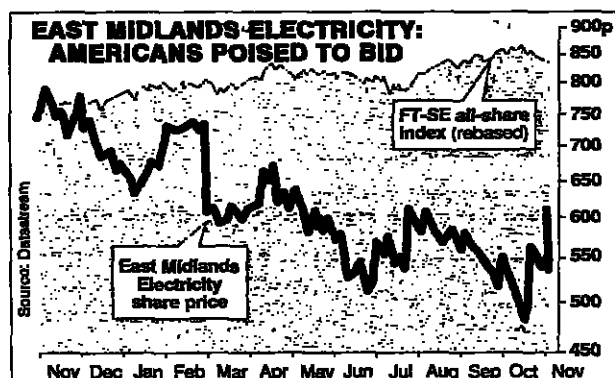
proud to boast that it is big from Bury St Edmunds to King's Lynn.

The wannabes of Britain's cathedral towns, normally forgotten by capitalists of themed eateries who think the world ends at Watford, are rewarding Luminar's investment handsomely. A Chicago Rock Cakes, which costs £600,000 to open, usually brings in more than £250,000 a year in profit.

By laying out dancing as well as food and drinks, Luminar is specialising in an area of youth culture where the conservative brewers fear to tread. Chicago Rock Cakes are proving handy one-stop shops, where evenings can melt into nights with no change of venue. Once established in small towns, they will not easily be pushed off their perch.

Luminar shares have had a good run, but the company is still in its infancy. They have further to go.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED



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Rescuers sought

THREE possible backers met last night to rescue the eight-month-old *London Financial News*, the City trade magazine.

Chris Anderson, the multimillionaire founder of *Future Publishing* who threw about £600,000 into its launch, says he will reach any forthcoming funding as long as the magazine improves its sales and marketing. Clive Wolman, founder and editor, turned to his university chum for help, to raise a further £750,000 to save the publication; he said next Monday's issue might not be printed unless one of the unnamed backers steps in.

And shed a tear for Anthony Julius, divorce lawyer to Diana, Princess of Wales. He is said to have lost the £30,000 that he invested.

Just the ticket

SPORT and the City go together like Ken and Edie. So in true *Budget* spirit, the *City Diary* is running a competition for three pairs of tickets, with all hospitality trimmings as guests of the match sponsor, to the international at Twickenham. Send your answers to the following questions, and the winners will be drawn from a hat on November 12. Which investment house sponsors the rugby internationals at Twickenham? And who is the new England rugby captain?

Technical term

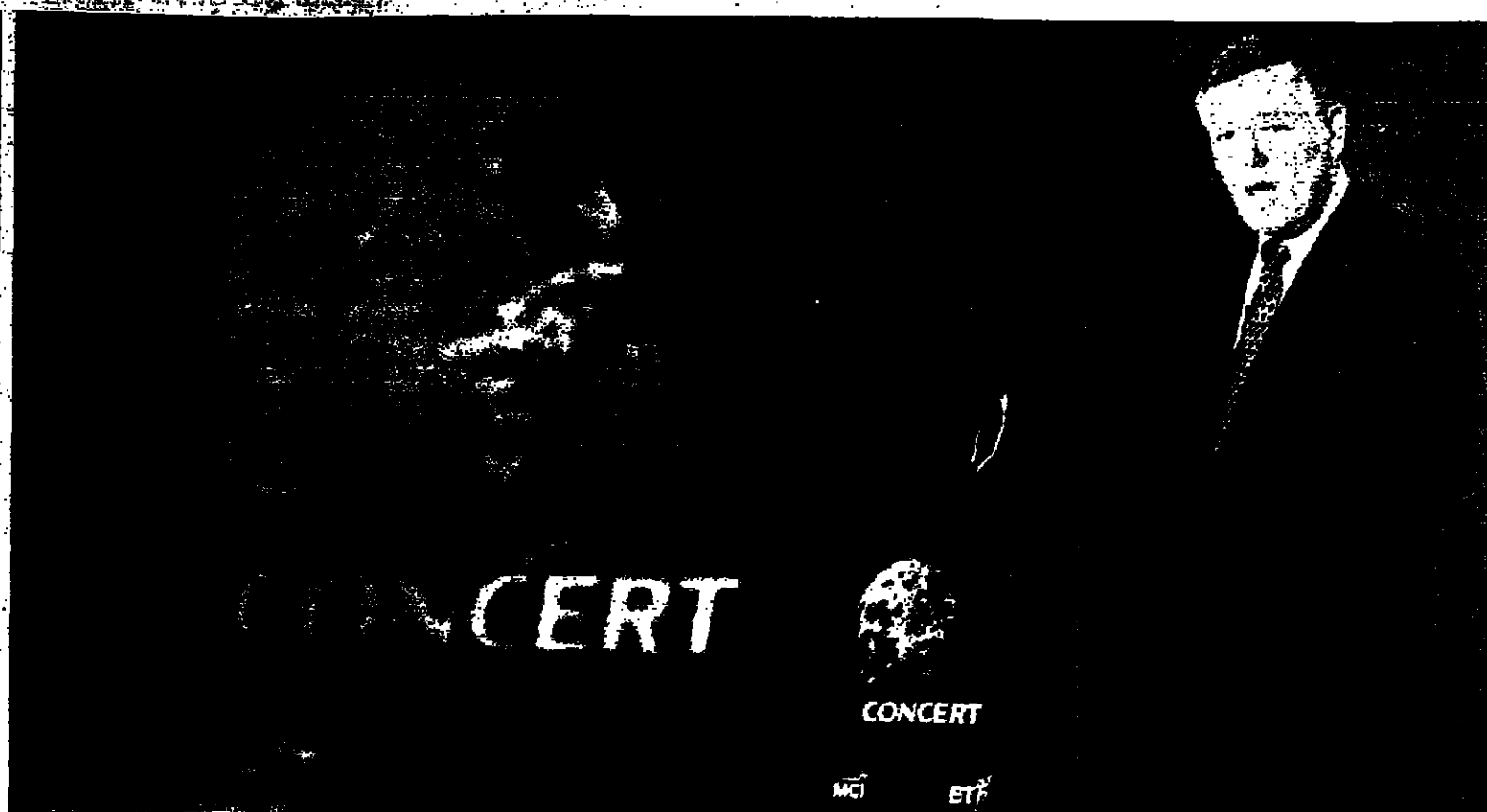
LUMINAR is keen to give out the message, that its nightclubs aren't sleazy haunts. As the owner of the Chicago Rock Cafe chain and a string of discos, the company claims that its clubs are a drug-free zone; Luminar is every policeman's best friend. At the mention of those burly blokes that loiter outside the throbbing venues, Stephen Thomas, chief executive, interrupts: "We don't have bouncers — we have ballroom technicians." Engineering degrees are not essential.

Two talented

TWO ambitious employees from Rentokil plan to take the pop charts by storm. Debbie Drake and Alan Watkins, both sales executives from UK Property Care South-East in Brighton, wowed the audience at Rentokil's UK Sales and Management Conference talent contest. Now, the feisty duo are preparing to record their first rock'n'roll album, which is to be called *Brighton Rock*, and a video of their favourite songs. They have signed themselves up with an entertainment agency, and, with their act polished into a well-rehearsed 45-minute routine, the couple tell me that they are in big demand.

PETER BIRCH, Abbey National's 58-year-old chief executive, is planning a descent from the top of the bank's head office in Milton Keynes. To raise money for the charity Children in Need, Birch says he will abseil down the side of the five-storey building at the end of this month. A competitive type, Birch usually spends his free time on board a bike or clocking up lengths in the pool.

MORAG PRESTON



Shareholder value was a priority for Bert Roberts, chairman and chief executive of MCI, in striking a deal with BT, according to analysts

Will BT bring more to the Concert party than MCI?

Richard Thomson explains why the transatlantic partners may have already got their wires crossed

We thrive on chaos. This is the buccaneering motto of Gerald Taylor, the president of MCI. With such a philosophy, it is typical of this upstart telecoms company to have vaulted in one bound from being a very distant second in the US market to one of the world leaders through its \$20 billion deal with British Telecom.

It is also a world away from the staid, conservative philosophy of BT and raises the question of how well the two managements will fit together. Already, the deal is being seen in different ways either side of the Atlantic. In Britain, it is BT's big play to dominate the international telecoms market.

In the US, however, it is regarded as MCI's chance to use the deep pockets of a wealthy new owner to protect its position in the evermore competitive US domestic market.

If MCI has its way in the new partnership, large chunks of BT's capital will be used for that purpose rather than to forge the global giant that Sir Iain Vallance envisages.

There is no doubt that MCI needs extra capital. Earlier this year, the US Government agreed to deregulate the tightly controlled US telecoms market by allowing the local phone companies — the Baby Bells — and the long-distance com-

panies, such as MCI, AT&T and Sprint, to invade each other's markets. The response was almost immediate, throwing the US market into a ferment of competition. Plans for mergers between Baby Bells surfaced within weeks. Nynex and Bell Atlantic agreed a deal in the East, while SBC and PacificTel got together in the West. The aim was partly defensive and partly to gather strength for an assault on the lucrative long-distance market.

Bob Wilks, telecoms analyst at Brown Brothers Harriman, says: "All US carriers need to keep moving ahead simply as a defensive move." MCI is no exception. But the problem for the long-distance operators is that entry into the local market is extremely expensive. Putting lines into individual houses involves an investment of billions of dollars; to afford this, MCI needed a partner. Its attempt to build a local network, called MCI Metro, has so far not been a great success. It has spent nearly \$2 billion on it and gets a return of about \$100 million. Moreover, the competition is intense. In some US cities there are more than a

dozen new entrants to the market, some of which are bound to fail.

MCI talked mergers with several US groups that might have given it an immediate, and cheaper, entry into the local market. In the end, it could not resist the pull of BT's 20 per cent stake, though that will mean that MCI will have to build its local phone business expensively from scratch. How to fund that? A clue is that BT's \$9 billion a year cashflow is about three times as big as MCI's.

Bryan van Dussen, director of telecoms research at the Yankee Group in Boston, says: "Although BT has wanted a way into the US for years, it really seemed to want to spend its capital on building business in the Pacific Rim."

MCI was founded in the late 1960s as Microwave Communications Inc. providing radio links for truckers on the roads between Chicago and St Louis. The company enjoyed explosive growth in the 1980s after the break-up of the old AT&T phone monopoly. Encouraged by industry regulators as a much-needed competitor to AT&T in the

long-distance market, MCI adopted a brash and risky style under William McGowan, its founder.

By 1995 the number of employees had mushroomed from 1,500 to 52,000 as MCI captured 20 per cent of the long-distance US phone market and 40 per cent of the international business. By using flashy promotions and taking big risks, the company established its name as a valuable brand and became the second-largest US long-distance operator. Nevertheless, it remained the underdog: its market value of around \$16 billion before the BT offer was still only a fraction of AT&T's \$55 billion.

For nearly 20 years, MCI was seen as an aggressive growth stock. In the last couple of years, however, its share price stalled below \$30. Despite continuing revenue growth, the stock market seemed to have decided that its main business was maturing and that the opportunities of deregulation were at least balanced by the dangers. It has gained a large slice of

Internet traffic and has done several deals with Microsoft. Its most widely watched move, however, was to agree in April last year to spend \$2 billion on a 13.5 per cent stake in the News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*.

But none of MCI's new departures boosted the share price. Part of the problem was probably that, taken together, the new investments did not add up to a coherent strategy that made sense to the stock market. They were speculative, unproven ventures.

Many US analysts therefore regard the need to boost MCI's share price as the main reason for the enthusiasm of Bert Roberts, chairman and chief executive, to do a deal with someone big.

"MCI was looking to improve shareholder value," said Mr van Dussen. "I struggle to understand the strategic value of linking with BT. Had there been no existing relationship with BT, I'm not convinced it would have been on MCI's list of suitors."

In other words, what is being presented as a perfect strategic fit between transatlantic partners may in fact be little more than a marriage of convenience as far as MCI is concerned. With BT offering to pay a 40 per cent premium to MCI shareholders, the company has unquestionably given its investors a handsome boost in the value of their shares. If BT is willing to spend the money in the US, MCI will at last have put itself on an equal competitive footing with AT&T. And there is no better example of MCI's buccaneering spirit than that.

BUSINESS LETTERS

BA-AA planned alliance flies the flag for even more competition

From the Chief Executive of British Airways
Sir David Colman, the vice-president of United Airlines responsible for marketing, wants the "wings clipped" off British Airways' proposed alliance with American Airlines (business feature, October 30). His concern may be related to the fact that the alliance will result in more competition for his company. British Airways needs such an alliance to provide the same kind of integrated service across a worldwide network as existing alliances already offer. The largest of these networks is the one operated by United Airlines' alliance with Lufthansa, Scandinavian Airlines, Thai International and others.

Far from reducing competition, the addition of one more such network linking the key cities of Europe with those of the United States can only intensify it. This is particularly so in the case of the British Airways alliance, which the Government has said provides a basis for the full liberalisation of the market between the UK and the United States, which will bring in many more airlines competing at Heathrow.

The British Airways alliance has for the last four and a half months been subject to examination by the British competition authorities. While Mr Colman is free with his advice to the President of the Board of Trade about the action which he should take, he omitted to mention that the United/Lufthansa alliance received no scrutiny at all from the German competition authorities.

Mr Colman's argument that BA has a higher share of available slots at Heathrow than Lufthansa has at Frankfurt is entirely specious. It is true only if one counts the slots available at Frankfurt in the middle of the night, when no-one wants to fly: the tighter noise restrictions at Heathrow rightly make the use of such slots for British Airways out of the question. The plain facts of the matter are that Lufthansa and its allies have 63 per cent of the useful slots at Frankfurt, whereas British Airways and American have 42 per cent of the slots used at Heathrow.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT AYLING,
Speedbird House,
Heathrow Airport.

So-called City experts a poor judge of M&S

From Mr Barry Hyman
Sir, Marks & Spencer turn in, as ever, record sales and record profits. They promise to create more jobs, they give their shareholders an increased dividend. Their shares, however, are marked down 16 pence by City "experts" because figures were not up to City expectations!

If the City's record of reliability, judgment, planning and success (not to mention plain nous) were one tenth that of the M&S

management, they might just be qualified to judge. As things stand, I'd rather take the retailer's record of uninterrupted achievement as proof of their commercial genius than take notice of a bunch of myopics, buying and selling for short-term gain and with no vision beyond next week's quick buck.

Yours faithfully,
BARRY HYMAN,
4 Priory View,
Bushey Heath,
Hertfordshire.

Level rewards for everyone

From Mr Terry Slater
Sir, I couldn't agree more with Mr Denis Harvey-Kelly (Business Letters October 22) when he writes "anyone who makes money for the shareholders should be properly rewarded". We the workers make that money, only to see the fat cats get the cream. I.e. 50 per cent wage increase, share options, bonuses, enhanced pensions, etc. We have to settle for 3 per cent maximum. I agree with his suggestion that executives (and workers) should not exceed the dividend to shareholders. That would be fair for all.

Yours faithfully,
TERRY SLATER,
68 Moorfield,
Harlow, Essex.

Unfriendly Tartan tax

From Mr R. Gordon
Sir, Threat to Business from New Labour. G. Hoon, MP. (Oct 15 Business Letters) would have us believe that "New Labour" is friendly to business. I am trying to reconcile this with the extra costs which will be suffered by British companies with operations in Scotland where their employees will demand compensation for having to pay a ridiculous, unnecessary and discriminatory Tartan tax. Without compensation, employees will not accept a Scottish posting. Surveys in Scotland show that business totally rejects this "New Labour" tax proposal.

Yours faithfully,
R. GORDON,
277 Byres Road, Glasgow.

In search of balance as CBI weighs up the politicians

Michael Heseltine, Gordon Brown, Malcolm Rifkind, Margaret Beckett, Michael Portillo and John Redwood are among the senior politicians who will join Britain's principal business leaders at their annual convention in Harrogate next week.

While leading industrialists will meet politicians, Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, and John Monks, TUC General Secretary, they hope that politics will not dominate the proceedings. "I hope there will be some parts where we can get away from pure politics," said Adair Turner, Director-General of the CBI. "Business is interested in the non-political issues, as well as the political ones."

Finding a distinction between the two, though, may be difficult. From EMU to corporate governance, from competitiveness to the superhighway, from employee relations to the economy, every issue is at once central to business and politics: what the CBI conference this year has to do is find a balance between the two sides.

Last year, when the CBI met in Birmingham, the conference was dominated by Tony Blair, the Labour leader, whose address so stirred his political opponents that Ian Lang, the president of the Board of Trade, was forced to remind business to support its natural and traditional allies in the Conservative Party.

This year, some business leaders are surprised that Mr Blair's move has not been answered by an appearance at the conference by the Prime Minister. CBI leaders, who point out that John Major addressed their annual dinner in May, invited him, but their diaries clashed. They insist that his non-appearance does not signify any judgment about his electoral prospects.

CBI leaders see a full range of issues facing business regardless of the election out-



Adair Turner intends to reflect a range of views

come, as Adair Turner makes clear today in a pre-conference interview with *The Times*.

For many companies — especially exporters — the most pressing point is sterling: the sharp appreciation of the pound which is threatening to make many British manufacturers uncompetitive. Currency appreciation is an unusual problem for British industry to have to wrestle with, and no one in business is wholly sure what is likely to happen. But concern is growing.

CBI leaders emphasise the importance of getting the Budget right — a Budget which will minimise the need for further interest rate rises, which would then feed through into exchange rates. Manufacturing is already markedly underperforming much of the rest of the economy, and CBI leaders see the danger of a return to the late '80s pattern of strong consumer growth and weaker manufacturing — a boom that will inevitably turn to bust.

"It's important that no changes are made which create problems," says Mr Turner. "Our own Budget submission is not far off saying do nothing."

That means no, or very few, tax cuts — a call which business leaders believe is right economically, but accept is unlikely politically.

But if sterling, the state of manufacturing and export competitiveness are the most pressing immediate issue for many firms, the most difficult is, likely to be Europe — especially economic and monetary union (EMU). On Sunday, the CBI will publish the results of a poll of its members' views on EMU — and the results are likely to be almost as mixed as when the CBI carried out a similar exercise a year ago.

Adair Turner thinks that even if Britain does say no — and like many, he thinks that at least the economic arguments on EMU are very finely balanced — then the tone in which it did so would be important. "If we stay out, understanding why others are going ahead, wishing them well with going ahead, and at least with the possibility that we may come in later, then I think it's quite possible that we can stay out for quite a period of time without any severe damage to access to the single

market." But if politics is increasingly affecting business as the general election moves closer, then business leaders are increasingly unafraid to enter the political arena on issues which they judge to be vital to Britain economically.

In doing that, they are measuring the political parties against each other — and the performance of the range of political leaders heading for Harrogate over the next few days will be central to that. Leaving aside what their own personal political preferences might be, many business leaders don't see that much of a difference between the Conservatives and Labour on core economic policies.

But there are still areas of what Adair Turner calls "product differentiation" which will be on show in Harrogate, especially on Labour's side, with its commitment to signing the European social chapter, and to introducing a minimum wage — neither of which business wants to see.

Product differentiation will be markedly on display on Tuesday, the second day of the conference, when the European Court is widely expected to reject the UK Government's appeal against the legality of the EU's 48-hour working time directive, which will prompt Conservative ministers to make anti-European attacks, and their Labour shadows to make pro-European calls for the UK to adopt proper minimum standards at work.

In all this, the CBI will strive to maintain its declared policy of political neutrality, which some ministers and business leaders see as too insupportive of the Conservatives, and therefore too pro-Labour. Adair Turner doesn't accept that. "There is a range of views in the business community. It's not homogenous. It's our job to represent that. And that's what we'll do."

PHILIP BASSETT

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PRUDENTIAL

Electrocomponents expands in face of sluggish markets

BY FRASER NELSON

ELECTROCOMPONENTS is to double its operations in both France and Italy despite sluggish markets in both countries. The distributor, which expanded from its UK base three years ago, said that it was aiming to dominate the market in continental Europe and was prepared to accept that exposure to struggling markets would not optimise profits growth.

Bob Lawson, chief executive, said that the company had no plans to alter its expansion strategy, adding: "We have not been discouraged one little bit. We can't beat the economy, but we can still strengthen our market position overseas. When the demand picks up, we want to have our sales operations firmly in place."

In the six months to September 30, the company shrugged off the worst of the European downturn to lift its pre-tax

profits to £48.3 million, from £41.9 million. Earnings rose to 7.6p a share, from 6.6p. The interim dividend is increased to 2.4p a share, from 2p, payable on January 20.

The results were helped by the expansion of the group's catalogue, which now offers 72,100 products, an increase of 9,200 since last March. Demand for the CD-Rom version of the catalogue was also strong.

Sales in continental Europe by 23 per cent, to £56.5 million. Mr Lawson said that by offering next-day delivery, price was often a secondary consideration for its clients. This, he said, had allowed the company to avoid the worst of the downturn in markets.

However, growth in the UK slowed, with sales only 12 per cent ahead. Mr Lawson said that the domestic market had stayed tougher for longer. He said: "Personally, I thought we

would have seen the British markets recover by autumn. There have been no signs of this happening so far, but I am hoping to see things pick up after the new year."

Analysts too had hoped for an earlier recovery in the UK, and marked down forecasts for the group's year-end profits, from £113 million to £111.5 million. Shares in Electrocomponents lost 6p yesterday, closing at 418½p.

Meanwhile, the group announced that it is buying out its distributor in Hong Kong as part of its plans to expand in the Far East. It has already bought out its distributor in Singapore.

Asia's market in next-day delivery products is fragmented, the company said, adding that it welcomed the extra competition provided by Premier Farnell, a rival still building up its operations in the region.



Stephen Thomas, left, Luminar chief executive, and Michael Arnold, chairman, after announcing results yesterday

Luminar on the mark with profits

LUMINAR, the nightclub and restaurant owner that floated in May, met its prospectus forecast yesterday with pre-tax profits 30 per cent ahead at £1.58 million (Fraser Nelson writes). The results gave more evidence of a recovery in consumer spending, as demand for its

Chicago Rock Cafés allowed the company to add five more outlets, taking its portfolio to 12. It plans to open eight more before the end of the year.

Luminar converted two of its nightclubs into themed Cuban-style venues, called Rhythm Rooms. Three more will

be opened by the year end. Earnings were 7.5p (6.8p). A maiden interim dividend of 2.33p will be paid on January 17. The shares eased 1p to 351½p, against the placing price of 200p.

City Diary, page 31.

Daewoo in drive for Thomson

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN PARIS

DAEWOO Electronics of South Korea yesterday began a charm campaign in France with newspaper advertisements after fierce criticism of its plans to buy Thomson Multimedia, the loss-making state-owned company.

Using the slogan "Do you know the dwarf Daewoo?", the group sought to counter growing resentment in France that a South Korean mirror was set to buy a famous French company for a symbolic Fr1.

France's Privatisation Commission will say next month whether it agrees with a government plan to sell Thomson, the defence and consumer electronics group, to Lagardère Groupe for Fr1 after an Fr11 billion capital injection. In turn, Lagardère will sell Thomson Multimedia, a maker of televisions and video recorders and a leader in digital video technology, to Daewoo. In full-page advertisements in most French newspapers, Daewoo said that its electronics arm had similar sales to Thomson Multimedia, at Fr40 billion, but with a big profit, unlike the French company.

Energy rules hit users, MPs told

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL
CORRESPONDENT

SOME electricity customers are being dealt a double blow by the regulator because there is insufficient competition in generation and because transmission costs are passed on to those living furthest from power production, MPs were told yesterday.

Gale Klappa, chief executive of Sweb, the American-owned south-west England regional company, told the Commons Trade and Industry Committee that he had lobbied the regulator for modification of plans to pass transmission charges to customers living far from generation centres.

Mr Klappa went on to condemn the state of generation competition to the committee, which is investigating the performance of energy regulators. He said that in spite of protests from the two main generators — National Power and PowerGen — that they were losing market share they nevertheless controlled price-setting.

Earlier, Ed Wallis, PowerGen chairman, had told the MPs that his company had lost substantial market share and that he could foresee a time, given enough players with critical mass, when regulation in generation would not be needed. Generators are already free from price regulation. However, Mr Klappa said that for customers to gain from the free market in domestic electricity in 1998, much more needed to be done to encourage competition in generation. He said: "The costs of generation accounts for 52 per cent of their bills. We have got to have a more effective system for competition in generation and have got to find a way for the two large generators not to set the pool price."

He told MPs that National Power and PowerGen set the pool price — electricity's selling price — 71 per cent of the time in the six months to September 30.

Mr Klappa said that the South West was forced to pay more for its electricity through transmission costs, but Sweb and other regional electricity companies were prevented from owning generation capacity to meet more than 15 per cent of their needs.

Higher bid by CSX ends Conrail peace

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

CSX has raised its bid for Conrail, the largest railway company in the northeast of America, signalling the breakdown of peace talks with rival bidder Norfolk Southern.

CSX has increased its cash and paper offer to about \$8.4 billion, which is still below the all-cash offer of Norfolk. CSX's new offer is worth about \$93 for each Conrail share, compared with \$100 offered by Norfolk.

Conrail, which has already accepted the CSX offer, said that a merger with CSX was a superior strategic combination than a link with Norfolk. A merger between CSX and Conrail would create one of the largest transport companies in the world.

The revised offer from CSX means that talks between the two bidders over

the weekend have collapsed. They were discussing the possibility of breaking up Conrail between them after a bid but it appears that each company was insisting on being the initial buyer.

David Goode, Norfolk's chairman, said: "It is clear that CSX and Conrail intend to continue their joint efforts to railroad Conrail shareholders into accepting a proposal significantly inferior to Norfolk Southern's. Any discussion between us is a waste of time."

The takeover bid battle is the third major railways deal to emerge in the past 12 months in America, where the industry is going through a period of consolidation.

Whichever company buys Conrail will become the largest railway operator in the east of the US.

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The Economist

مكتبة من الامارات

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

Lloyd Thompson said it had "accumulated significant capital and has material cash balances". It added that the buyback aimed to increase shareholder value for all shareholders and shares would only be acquired at prices that would result in an increase in earnings per share.

By KERRY RODGERS

Chelsfield bought the site from Trafalgar House for £3 million in August after forming a joint venture with Godfrey Bradman, former chairman of Rosehaugh, the failed property company involved in



ted a new master plan, drawn up by architects Terry Farrell and Partners, to Westminster Council, focusing on residential, restaurant and leisure facilities. The site adjoins Pad-

BY NOEL FUNG

from 110 to 107 — reducing institutional funds under management £10 million to £2.46 billion. Dugald Eadie, group managing director, said the result was satisfactory, showing that businesses were moving according to the management's corporate plan.

The company said: "After two years of healthy expansion and a more than 50 per cent increase in earnings excluding extraordinary gains, Siemens anticipates moderated growth this year. In view of declining earnings, notably in the components segment, as well as restructuring measures in the medical engineering group, net income is not expected to grow in fiscal 1997." Continued buoyancy in demand from abroad more than compensated for stagnating domestic business. Siemens said its worldwide workforce grew to 379,000 at the year end, from 373,000, as the company added more jobs outside Germany than it cut domestically.

I. GARDNER, the precision engineering company, has bought the rival **Sloanan Engineering** in a cash deal worth up to £2.45 million. The acquisition, Gardner's second this year, is being financed by a £5.3 million two-for-seven rights issue at 175p. Gardner shares rose 11p to a new high of 205½p yesterday as the company reported its first annual results since floating at 125p last November. Pre-tax profits were £2.53 million in the year to August 31, which Gardner attributed to the strength of the outsourcing sector. Earnings were 15.6p (12.5p) a share. A 4n final dividend, due on December 18, makes 6p (5.4p).

ROCKWELL, the diversified American industrial company, suffered a fall in fourth-quarter earnings to \$97 million from \$189 million in the final quarter of the previous year. The result cut full-year earnings to \$726 million from \$742 million. Earnings per share for the year were \$3.34, down from \$3.42 in 1995. During the year the group, based in California, sold its defence and aeronautical units to Boeing, the aircraft manufacturer, for \$3.2 billion. It also shed Silicom Graphics, its offset printing affiliate, to concentrate on automated operations, communications, avionics and automobile components.

SECURUM UK Holdings, a division of the Swedish asset management group, is selling two UK hotels to Alliance Hospitality UK for more than £50 million. A further £20 million is being raised through the sale of Kew Retail Park to Sun Life for £23 million. The two hotels – the Holiday Inn at Victoria, central London, and the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza on the Royal Mile, Edinburgh – were acquired by Securum in 1993 and were converted to the Holiday Inn brand this year. Kew Retail Park, in southwest London, was also acquired in 1993. Its main retail tenant is Furniture Village.

THORN LIGHTING GROUP, the lighting products manufacturer, is to take management control of its Hong Kong-based joint venture with Jardine Pacific by paying US\$1.45 million to increase its interest to 70 per cent from 50 per cent. The joint venture will be renamed Thorn Lighting Asian Holdings. Founded in 1988, the venture covers Hong Kong, Taiwan, Thailand and the Philippines. In return for the reduction in stake, Jardine Pacific will gain a 30 per cent control in TLG's remaining operations in the Asia Pacific region excluding Australasia.

MORE than 200 jobs are being created in Wales with the £11 million expansion of Align-Rite's manufacturing plant in Bridgend, it was announced yesterday. Align-Rite, a high-technology company based in California, produces photomasks for the semiconductor industry. Wales secured the investment despite competition from other European countries and owes its success partly to LG's decision to establish a semiconductor manufacturing plant in Newport. South Wales's other silicon chip producer, Waferfab, is already a customer of Align-Rite.

RAGLAN PROPERTIES suffered a decline in pre-tax profits to £1.02 million from £4.18 million in the half-year to September 30. The shortfall arose from the absence of last year's non-recurring income and a reduction in income from properties now under or held for redevelopment. Earnings fell to 0.44p a share, from 2.34p. Raglan estimates that its net asset value is at least 33.6p a share, the same as at March 31. The company does not pay an interim dividend, but it has promised that the final dividend will be at least maintained at 1.1p a share.

CHARLES Stanley Group, the stockbroking and investment management company, is doubling the size of its London operation after the introduction of Crest, the electronic settlement system. The company made £1.01 million pre-tax profit for the six months to the end of September after expenditure of £300,000 on the investment programme. In the first half of the previous year profits were a record £1.25 million. Earnings were 6.68p a share (8.65p), adjusted for last year's bonus issue. The interim dividend is up 32 per cent to 0.825p.

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE
IN SYDNEY

The Reserve Bank said that the interest rate had been lowered because figures showed that inflation and pay growth were under control. However, some economists said that the cut would not be enough to stimulate the economy.

BY MARTIN BARROW

Turnover also rose strongly

see a continuation of this steady recovery."




By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

The study, from the Policy Studies Institute, says that growing numbers of job seekers are now leaving unemployment to run their own businesses. Self-

The PSI study, funded by the Department for Education and Employment, says there is little evidence to suggest that

Alex Bryson, one of the study's authors, says: "Government programmes such as the Business Start-Up Scheme have helped unemployed people make the transition into self-employment. But more needs to be done to identify those who could make a success of self-employment."

Moving In and Out of Self-Employment. by Alex Bryson and Michael White. PSI. £14.95.



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Green light given for environmental financial reporting

By ROBERT LANGFORD

Less than two months ago the Government published the country's first *Pilot environmental accounts*, showing emissions to the atmosphere (in 1993) from each industry category. Good stuff for open-minded environmental planners. But less meaningful, except as a general warning, to individual businesses.

What they require is some means of planning for — and managing — the increasing number of environmental constraints, not to mention taxes, being placed upon them.

Certainly businesses can seek the environmental management standard BS7750, or its European equivalent, the EMAS stamp of approval, for a particular site. But this is a fairly muted way of demonstrating green corporate credentials. What businesses need is some kind of scorecard that everybody agrees has validity.

It might come as a surprise to know that such a scorecard already exists. That scorecard is the annual accounts. Existing financial reporting requirements already require businesses to charge the costs of meeting environmental commitments against profits and to provide for those they know they must meet in the future. They must also write down the value of premises, plant and machinery made obsolete, unusable and unsaleable by anti-pollution legislation.

The figures, until now, have seldom been disclosed separately for a number of reasons. First, it is often not easy to identify the "environmental" element in particular costs. Secondly, total environmental costs may not be material enough in the context of the business as a whole to warrant separate mention. Now the pressure is on for businesses to say more about environmental performance. And they are beginning to do so by making additional voluntary disclosures in their annual reports.

Herein lies a danger. While the unit of measurement — money — may be constant, the principles of measurement and

scope of information provided outside the constraints of formal audited accounts may not. Accountants are on the case, both in the UK and overseas. Recent examples include a working document from the EC Accounting Advisory Forum, and the Accounting Standards Board's 1995 discussion paper on provisions, which included a separate section dealing with environmental liabilities.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales has also been working on the issues through its environmental steering group. A first discussion document published last year elicited an array of responses. These have been worked into a revised paper — *Environmental issues in financial reporting* — published last week.

This confirms that "treatment of environmental issues in financial reporting is largely an application of the existing framework" and that "accounting standards are generally adequate to enable environmental liabilities to be properly accounted for in financial statements". It also gives encouragement to those who want to say more in accounts about their environmental performance, and suggests how some of the trickier measurement and allocation issues can be handled.

"Management commentary on any material environmental issue affecting, or likely to affect, the enterprise should be regarded as good practice," the paper concludes. It also calls for accounts to include a description of accounting policies directed at dealing with environmental costs and liabilities. The emphasis is on practical and comparable measurement, in financial terms, of known obligations and financially viable "environmental investment".

For example, a distinction is drawn between environmental expenditure required in the future because of a change in the law that has already been enacted (even if the full effect of that change is delayed) and

that which is likely under an expected change in the law.

The first is to be provided for the minute the obligation arises. The second does not require provision. Bringing certainty to the sometimes woolly issue of environmental matters, the paper emphasises that it is the point at which the business becomes unavoidably obliged to make the expenditure that matters.

The English Institute group does not attempt to deal with third-party costs arising from the impact of the business on the environment, as did the *Pilot environmental accounts*. Its purpose is more focused and based on the premise that good environmental performance will begin with accurate and comparable information about those in whose hands the wider picture rests.

Robert Langford is Head of Financial Reporting at the English ICA.

Many a true word is spoken in jest

It was Sir Sydney Lipworth, chairman of the Financial Reporting Council, who somewhat unwittingly put his finger on the state of the corporate governance debate as it stands.

He was just starting his speech to last Friday's corporate governance conference organised by the English ICA. He was being jocular in his opening remarks and was pretending to have had some calming advice from the conference chairman just before getting up to speak. "You don't have to worry," he claimed to have been told, "they don't expect very much from you." It was a joke. But it does, on the basis of his words and those of Sir Ronnie Hampel, the chairman of the current committee on corporate governance, ring true.

It is obvious that both Sir Sydney and Sir Ronnie are there not to push through the required corporate governance reforms, but to provide the proverbial safe pair of hands. They are there to give the positions dignity and gravitas. They are there as a holding operation, to act as a discreet brake on what the corporate sector perceived as the breakneck pace of reform under their predecessors.

It is a measure of the isolated nature of people in the nation's boardrooms that they had seen Sir Adrian Cadbury and Sir Ron Dearing as dangerous and irresponsible radicals.

Both did excellent work, one in the creation of the Cadbury Code and the report that gave it substance, the other in the creation of the Financial Reporting Council and his encouragement of it to take a good robust leadership stance in changing views within the financial reporting community.

At present, as last week's conference showed, we are drifting back to the old days, when governance was a matter for company directors and no business of anyone else.

An angry Mark Sheldon, one-time senior partner of Linklaters & Paines, and an original member of the Cadbury committee, made his feelings plain.

He agreed that there had been a definite need for reform when the Cadbury Committee had been set up. It had been there to curb unacceptable boardroom behaviour in the wake of corporate catastrophes. Now that the catastrophes had subsided there was less obvious public need for action. But that didn't



ROBERT BRUCE

mean that a "steady-as-she-goes" strategy was required. It simply meant that we were in a different stage of the business cycle. "In the pursuit of profits, people do forget," he pointed out.

Sir Ronnie's job seems to be to ensure that people do not forget. At the conference he promised to have a draft report out by the middle of 1997, to follow it with a period of consultation and to produce a final report on the state of corporate governance and how the Cadbury reforms were doing by the end of 1997. Anyone who has looked at

the letter sent out by the Hampel committee last month, outlining the areas on which it would like to have some feedback, will know just how heavily the foot is on the brake. Most of the areas for discussion and specific points relate to the concerns which triggered the original Cadbury report.

In what terms should auditors review directors' internal control statements, and to whom should they report on them? For example, that question was done to death with extraordinary thoroughness during the Cadbury process. But, as we know, company directors didn't like the conclusions drawn and recommendations advocated.

So here it is back again, being prodded a bit before some anodyne pronouncement is made more than a year hence. The same is true of many other areas the Hampel letter sees as "relevant".

The language used at the conference gave away much of the agenda. There was much talk of encouraging companies to prosper, as though that should be a direct objective of corporate governance rules.

Sir Ronnie saw the desired objective as "a framework in which business can prosper

and grow". Sir Sydney wanted to "ensure the sound running of companies". Both sentiments are obviously exactly what is required. But it is not a direct function of the Cadbury code to provide that.

Prosperity and growth will follow from the performance of a well-run company. But it derives from a myriad of other qualities within the company. Good corporate governance can provide a sound basis for that, but it does not directly provide it.

The point about this attempted linking of prosperity and corporate governance rules is that it allows boardroom reactionaries to feel that a rant about being strangled with red tape or drowning under the weight of disclosure requirements is somehow justified. And before long you are back with the lovely old argument that Sir Owen Green used to use, that directors are, by and large, honest and upright souls, and that therefore no rules at all are necessary.

Instead, directors should focus on the advice of Sir Anthony Cleaver at the conference. "We should now pay more attention to what the board can actively contribute beyond simply ensuring compliance," he urged.



Robert Langford says businesses need a green scorecard

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Open and shut case for KPMG

AS THE English ICA found when it opened parts of its council meetings to the press, and as the firm of KPMG is finding with its current advertising campaign trumpeting openness, the concept can become a bit of a hostage to fortune. At this week's conference on professional firms' liability, Colin Sharman, KPMG's senior partner, was asked by a partner from Neville Russell the tax cost of incorporating KPMG's audit practice. In a spirit of openness you might have expected a swift "£17 million", or some such reply, but smiling broadly, Mr Sharman said: "I am trying to think of a way to give you an indication without giving you the information."

Rise and shine

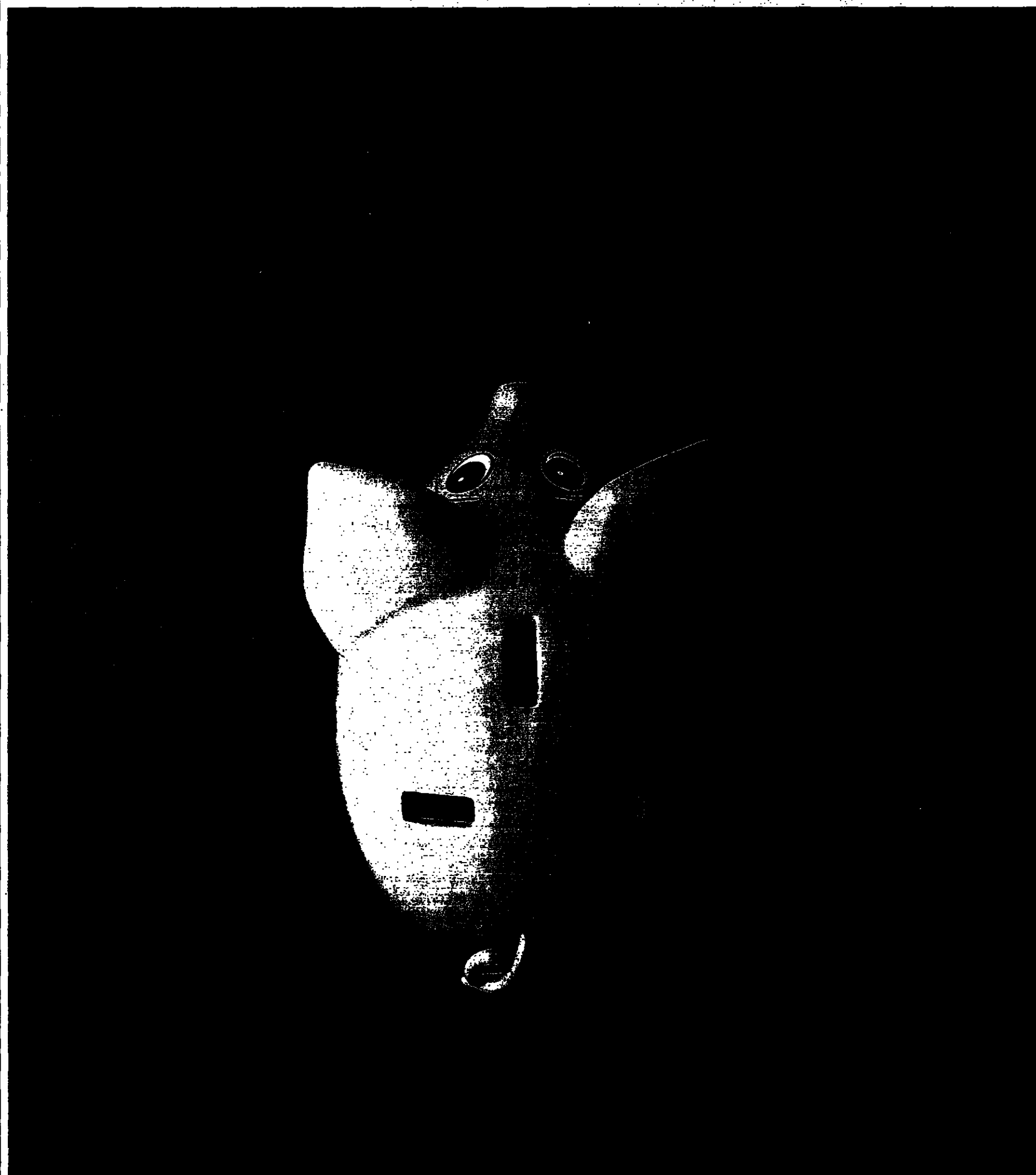
LONDON'S new Lord Mayor was forced to rise a little earlier yesterday — 3am, rather than 5am. Roger Cork, a senior partner at Moore Stephens, the chartered accountant, was

up before the City to rehearse for the Lord Mayor's Show this Saturday. On board the 18th century coach, he travelled through the streets of the Square Mile from Guildhall to Mansion House, and on to St Paul's. For the rehearsal alone, Cork was allowed to swap the historic robes and swords for a raincoat and welcome umbrella.

There's a thought

ONE of the most imaginative proposals in the tax world was put forward in this week's Philip Hardman memorial lecture. Iain Stitt, one-time partner of Arthur Andersen, put forward his thesis on fighting parochialism in the field of international tax. One measure was that the Board of the Inland Revenue should bow to the pressures of corporate governance and appoint "one or more non-executive directors whose role would be to ensure that full consideration is given to the business implications of tax policy proposals". A small queue of applicants is apparently forming outside Somerset House.

ROBERT BRUCE



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Bargains of the week — from a midweek break on the slopes of Aviemore to a night at the opera in Vienna

HOLIDAYS

LONDON breaks for £39.50 a person including two nights half-board accommodation are available at hotels in the City and Docklands from the YHA. Deals also available in Bristol, Cambridge and Manchester. Details: 01727 845047.

■ SAVINGS of up to £60 are available on German city breaks from Moswin Tours, with two nights in Munich with return flights from Manchester now costing £244 a person and three nights in Düsseldorf with flights from Edinburgh £257. Details: 0116-271 9922.

■ THE COUNTRY Houses Association still has weekend and midweek breaks available in historic properties in southern England, with prices from £30 a person a night, including English breakfast and use of public rooms and the grounds. Details: 0171-836 1624.

■ MEXICO for a fortnight for £579 with a flight from Gatwick on Tuesday and room-only accommodation is on offer from Country Holidays. Details: 0116-250 7116.

■ ELAT features in several late availability offers from Crusader Travel with flights from London airports next Thursday. Prices start from £289 a person for a week. Details: 0181-744 0474.

■ A BARONIAL castle, sleeping 12, in Rothies, Morayshire, is available for £300 for three nights from November 16 from Country Holidays. Details: 01282 445442.

■ ISTANBUL at £185 a person for four nights with Accommodation Overseas from Gatwick on November 20. The price includes bed and breakfast in a three-star hotel. Details: 0181-971 2864.

■ DRY-SLOPE skiing and roller skating are among facilities on offer at Warmwell Leisure, Dorset, where Blakes Cottages has lodges available from November 23. The price for a lodge sleeping six is £293 a week. Details: 01282 445097.

■ A NIGHT at the opera in Vienna is

featured in a short break from JMB Travel with a flight from Heathrow on December 6. The price, including two nights' accommodation, is £489 a person. Details: 01905 425628.

■ THE MALDIVES for a fortnight from £668 a person, including half-board accommodation, is available from Holiday Place with a flight from Gatwick on December 8. Details: 0171-435 8071.

■ WINTER breaks in Malta, lasting from three to six days and costing from £154 a person including flights and B&B accommodation, are on offer from Bellair Holidays. Details: 0181-785 3200.

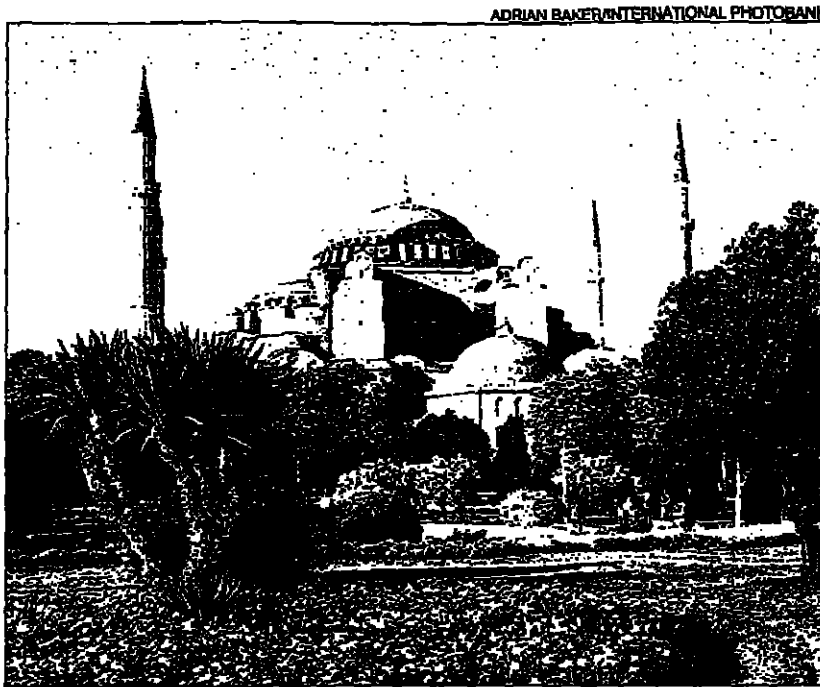
■ FINLAND for four nights at £629. Full board hotel accommodation and a chance to see Santa with Cosmos from Gatwick and Manchester on December 5. Details: 0161-480 5799.

■ EXPLORE Jordan over Christmas with Bales Tours, with a flight from Heathrow on December 23 for a week-long journey including Amman, the Dead Sea and Petra. Priced from £698 a person with first-class bed and breakfast accommodation. Details: 01306 876881.

■ SCOTTISH slopes are available to the skier from £270 for a five-day, midweek self-catering break at the Mercury Hotel, Aviemore, with Highlife Breaks. The price includes skiing and instruction. Details: 0800 700400.

■ SNOWLINE Skiing is offering a free ski pass worth £120 with every chalet holiday in January and has availability in the Franco/Swiss ski resort of Portes du Soleil, and Chamonix Valley, for a week from January 4 for £399 a person, including flights and half-board accommodation. Details: 0181-870 4807.

■ CRUISE reductions next year are on offer from A T Mays with an eight-night East Caribbean cruise departing April 25 priced at £949, a saving of £579. Details: 0141-951 8455.



St Sophia mosque, Turkey: four nights in Istanbul will cost £185 a person

FERRIES

RAIL and sail fares from Stena Line across the Irish Sea are being held at 1995 levels until May. Prices from London start at £39. Details: 0990-455455.

■ IRISH Ferries is quoting £119 for a 48-hour return on its Holyhead-Dublin route for a car and up to five adults. Valid until December 17. Details: 0345-171717.

■ AN UNLIMITED return ticket (up to December 31) for a car and up to five adults is available on Dover-Calais through Sea France. Day-trips cost £5 per car, £1 per passenger. A five-day return is £39.50 (£10 supplement on Saturdays). Call Eurodrive: 0181-324 4000.

■ SHOPPING day-trips through the Channel Tunnel cost £49 for travel between midnight and dawn, or £59 unrestricted, until December 31. Details from Eurodrive: 0181-324 4000.

ADRIAN BAKER/INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPH

FLIGHTS

VIRGIN Atlantic has £269 megasaver fares to Los Angeles and San Francisco. Book before next Monday for travel on selected dates between now and February 28. Details: 01293 747747.

■ KLM has cut-price Eurofl fares from more than a dozen UK airports via Amsterdam. Lead in prices include Berlin £109, Budapest £199, Madrid £99 and Moscow £299. Details: 0181-750 9000.

■ LUFTHANSA flights to Hong Kong cost £429 if booked this month through Travelmood. Details: 0171-258 0280.

■ THAI has a special £565 super saver fare for its nonstop London-Bangkok service. Details: 0171-499 9113.

■ NEW ZEALAND for £399 return from Gatwick flying on Sunday is on offer from Austral. Details: 0171-734 7755.

HOTELS

A VIDEO link between the UK and Australia on December 27 to 29 is on offer at five Hilton hotels at Basingstoke, Coventry, Leeds, Glasgow and Watford. The 15-minute video slot, worth £50, is included in the overnight package rate of £105 per person (£115 at the Glasgow Hilton). Details: 0800 856 8002.

■ SEE the international showjumping at Olympia on Saturday December 21 and stay at the Forte Crest, Heathrow. The package, through Superbreak, includes coach transfer and admission along with one night's accommodation of £79.95 per person. Details: 0161-238 5257.

■ HOTEL reductions are available from Highlife Breaks until December 22, including three nights' half-board at the Prince of Wales Hotel in Grasmere in the Lake District for £109 per person compared with the usual price of £180. Two nights at the George Hotel in Keswick cost £39 per person instead of £66. Details: 0800 700 400.

■ CONFERENCE organisers booking a meeting (with a total value of £1,000 or more) at any of the 70 Queens Moat House Hotels in the UK in the first three months of next year, will get a £50 leisure voucher for spending within any QMH hotel. Details: 0800 712 713.

■ A GUIDED visit to the Madeira Wine Company and a bottle of ten-year-old Madeira is included in a three-night package on offer from Reid's Hotel in Madeira. Price is about £470 per person. Details: 0171-805 5059.

■ THE new AA hotel booking service can find discounts of up to 50 per cent on room rates as well as helping AA members to locate accommodation anywhere in Britain at more than 8,000 hotels. Details: 0990 050505.

■ SEE the *Phantom of the Opera* and stay at the Radisson Edwardian Grafton Hotel in London for just £49.50 per person. The offer is for Friday nights only

and seats are in the top balcony at Her Majesty's Theatre. Details: 0800 335588.

■ A pre-Christmas shopping weekend package at the Chester Grosvenor Hotel, Chester, costs £140 per person. The offer includes a Friday night champagne reception. Details: 01244 324024.

■ THE Sheraton Grand Hotel in Edinburgh has launched a "Tartan Teddy Club" for children under 12: this includes a free welcome bag with a bear and a duck for the bath. Weekend room rates cost from £140 per night, with children staying free. Details: 0131-229 9131.

■ A THREE-night Christmas break at L'Horizon Hotel in Jersey costs from £125 per person per night full board, including champagne party and gala dinner. Price for children sharing with parents is £30 extra a night on a B&B basis only. Details: 01534 43101.

■ STAY in John Paul Getty's former home at Porta Vecchia, near Rome, one of the most unusual and luxurious hotels in the Mediterranean and a member of Relais & Chateaux. A four-day break through CV Travel costs £680 per person, including flights, transfers, two nights at the Porta Vecchia and one at the Hotel Raphael in Rome. Details: 0171-589 0132.

■ THE Mark Hotel in New York has a special Christmas rate of approximately £162 per room per night between December 15 and January 12. The offer includes continental breakfast, a holiday gift and a shuttle to the theatre district at weekends. The hotel has also recently opened a new fitness centre. Reservations are through Leading Hotels of the World. Details: 0800 181 123.

■ CLARIDGE'S in London has a two-night New Year's Eve package at £475 per person based on double occupancy, including full English breakfast, a gala dinner on New Year's Eve and dinner on New Year's Day. VAT and service are included. Details: 0171-629 8860.

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London	Verbena	£119
London	St Moritz	£119
London	Corvatsch	£119
London	Engadina	£119
London	Valais	£119
London	Vaud	£119
London	Fribourg	£119
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London	Lucerne	£119
London	Chamonix	£119
London	Verbena	£119
London	St Moritz	£119
London	Corvatsch	£119
London	Engadina	£119
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London	Vaud	£119
London	Fribourg	£119
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Activists scare off visitors to Cape

FROM MICHAEL HAMMOND IN CAPE TOWN

THE front-page headline in Tuesday's *Argus*, "Tourists shun Cape Fear", and the story declares that hotels in Cape Town are beginning to feel the effects of the bad press the city and the rest of South Africa have been getting on the subject of crime.

Cape Townians have been priding themselves that although the figures for tourist arrivals are generally down on last year, their city has been comparatively unaffected. Cape Town is unquestionably a safer place to visit than the commercial and industrial heartland around Johannesburg. But now the actions of Pagad — people against gangsterism and drugs, a mainly Muslim protest group — have begun to focus attention on the city's problems, too.

Of course, it is possible to be mugged in daylight in Cape Town, although it is far less likely, but Pagad has been drawing attention to the drug dealers, pimps and violent gangs among the Coloured community on the Cape Flats, which are scarcely likely to affect the visiting tourist.

However, many tourists have been caught up in Pagad's often violent demonstrations. At the weekend, Pagad descended on the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront, the city's major new tourist attraction. Hundreds of demonstrators, many with their faces hidden in Palestinian-style head-dress, blocked roads and had to be dispersed with rubber bullets. One man was killed.

Sydney Mufamadi, the Minister of Safety and Security, said the clashes would have a negative effect on tourism. He was backed by hoteliers and tour officials. The *Argus* said: "Major hotels report cancellations for the festive season."

John Knight, deputy manager of the Cape Sun International hotel in the centre of town, said the hotel had definitely suffered. Gordon Oliver, the chief of Captour, the city's tourist organisation, echoed his remarks. "They have contributed to the perception that Cape Town is a danger zone."

James Seymour, of the national tourist organisation Satour, said the number of tourists in 1995 grew by 23 per cent overall, and the number of overseas visitors by 59 per cent. South Africa was the 25th most important holiday destination in the world, according to the World Travel Organisation. The average growth this year is 5 per cent overall, and 7 to 8 per cent for overseas visitors. Fewer than 2 per cent of visitors were victims of crime.

Britons switch to long-haul holidays

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

MORE than a million British holidaymakers ignored the overcrowded Mediterranean beaches this summer in favour of more remote corners of the world. The number of short-haul packages fell by 14 per cent, while long-haul trips shot up by 21 per cent. Travel agents and tour operators were told that the demand was continuing to grow — along with the price.

While tour operators compete fiercely to sell low-cost holidays in the Mediterranean, the price of the most expensive holidays is soaring. British Airways Holidays launched what it called "the most expensive programme ever" in which the cheapest holiday is a week at a five-star hotel in Cairo for £299, while the most expensive is almost £5,000 for a week's safari in Kenya in luxury tents.

Roger Heape, managing director of British Airways Holidays, said: "An increasing number of people are upgrading their flights and accommodation; 37 per cent of our customers travelling to the Caribbean and 25 per cent of those travelling to the Indian Ocean are paying extra to travel in Club World."

Mr Heape urged delegates to the ABTA (Association of British Travel Agents) annual convention in Istanbul not to allow unrestricted growth to destroy the best resorts. "Because of the success of long-haul holidays this year, there could be a rush to some destinations. But we must not allow unlimited charter access or overcapacity which then trashes the market."

Delegates were also told that the share of the summer holiday market sold by the five biggest tour operators — Thomson, Air Tours, First Choice, Sunworld and Inspirations — slumped by 5 per cent this year, while the small operators' share rose. The new figures sparked a furious row over who could best satisfy the customer.

David Speakman of Travel Counsellors, a computer-based travel agency, claimed that agencies wholly-owned by large tour operators were unethical and advice to customers could be biased. But Tony Bennett, managing director of Going Places, the Air Tours agency, said the big operators had enabled more British people than any other nation in Europe to afford a holiday.

Greece and Cyprus lost about a quarter of their British visitors this year. Only Turkey, which attracted nearly 800,000 UK holidaymakers — 15 per cent up on the previous year — showed an increase in short-haul travel. Official figures show that Mexico, the Caribbean and Thailand had the biggest growth rates.

Winter skiing holidays, which had been steadily declining in popularity, now appear to be regaining their position. The poor snows of the early 1990s persuaded many skiers to seek winter sun rather than snow. But so far this year the market has grown by 17 per cent with Canada and Bulgaria both showing big increases in visitors. Only Austria, down 29 per cent, and Switzerland, down 9 per cent, saw a drop.



With so many visitors every day London's tourists spots have long suffered from the problems of rubbish disposal

Guide slates 'dirty' London

BY TONY DAWE

DAYS AFTER being nominated "the coolest city in the world" by a leading American magazine, London has been dismissed as "less attractive" than European capitals and with "increasing squalor" by a guide published this week in Britain by British researchers.

In a classic example of self-denigration, *Britain, The Rough Guide* attacks the capital as dirty, traffic-clogged and expensive and also dishes out bitter criticism for other leading tourist towns, including Stratford-upon-Avon and Plymouth.

In deference to overseas acclaim for London, the authors can find some good things to say about the city but always qualify them. "London should be better than it is," they say, "but it is still a thrilling place."

They add that London is "a colossal, frenetic city, perhaps not as immediately attractive as its European counterparts, but with so much variety that lack of cash is the only obstacle to a great time."

Stratford is dismissed as an "unremarkable market town, almost throttled to death by Shakespeare-related paraphernalia". Plymouth possesses a "predominantly bland and modern face which belies its great historic role as a naval base".

Cheltenham, where councillors and tourism officials were incensed last week by criticism from a character in *The Archers* radio serial, is described as "a place you're unlikely to want to linger in".

The tone of the guide, the latest in a series popular with young, adventurous travellers is set by its introduction which describes Britain as "a declining country". It adds that the nation "has a less than brilliant climate, a laughable indigenous cuisine and an attitude to social class that is ingrained with the habits of feudalism".

Public transport has "fallen victim to

Conservative economics" and rail travel is in decline because of "a lack of investment and the Government's obsession with privatisation".

A spokesman for the guide defended its "honest approach which readers find refreshing". He added: "When it comes to describing Britain, our writers don't mince their words."

They do find praise for Birmingham's "resurgent arts scene" and Manchester's "brilliant clubs", credit various aspects of Edinburgh and Dundee and, in Wales, enjoy Cardiff, St David's and Aberystwyth.

Despite the criticisms, they conclude that Britain is "a fabulous place to travel" with "a panoply of ancient towns to explore and countryside which yields all manner of delights from walkers' trails around the hills and lakes, through prehistoric stone circles to traditional villages and their pubs".

● *Britain, The Rough Guide*, £12.99, distributed by Penguin.

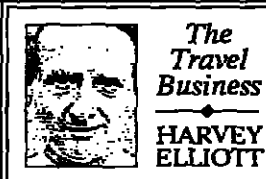
Through travel's looking glass

RUNNING through the Association of British Travel Agents' annual convention in Istanbul this week was a distinct, perhaps uneasy, undercurrent that something fundamental was about to change in the way the British go on holiday.

Labour clearly felt it had to help to influence whatever changes and decisions were taken — Jack Cunningham, the Shadow National Heritage Secretary, and Nigel Griffiths, the consumer affairs spokesman, were both there to put their case.

Dr Cunningham was particularly soothing in his repeated claims that an incoming Labour government would not raise taxes. Meanwhile Mr Griffiths, in one of his most effective speeches, waved the big stick of impending legislation without ever frightening anyone.

But at least the Labour Party was there and saying things which took the debate further. Not so the Government or even a junior Tory MP. Travel and tourism is arguably Britain's biggest industry and an annual holiday is regarded as the single most important purchase consumers can make in a year. Why was no minister there?



While there was much talk and debate about vertical integration — with tour operators owning airlines, cruise ships and travel agencies — the biggest such company of all, Thomson, was remarkable by its absence. Does Thomson not care what people think any more? Or does ABTA not care about Thomson? We, the holiday-buying public, care because what Thomson does today, others will copy tomorrow.

My guess is that there will be a continued move towards vertical integration. This will culminate in the creation of three or four giant competing groups. Prices will fall at the bottom end of the mass market and rise at the top, as those wealthy enough to demand the best find that they are able to pay for it.

The Government — especially if it is Labour — will introduce all kinds of legislation to control the "cowboys" in the industry. There will be little growth in the foreseeable future in the number of holidays booked on the Internet.

There will be a growing need, as tourists become more demanding, for expert travel advice — but bookings will be made increasingly with only those big enough to be able to offer a discount.

Cheap flights hit foreign blocks

BRITAIN'S charter airlines are facing growing international opposition to their attempts to spread high quality low-cost travel to foreign holidaymakers, *Harvey Elliott* writes.

Britannia, the biggest charter carrier, has been forced to take the German Government to court for refusing to allow it to fly German tourists from Berlin and Cologne to the Dominican Republic and on to Mexico. And other airlines, such as Air 2000, are being blocked in their attempts to sign contracts with American companies because of the continuing row over the proposed alliance between British Airways and American Airlines.

British charter airlines are renowned throughout the world for having the most efficient fleets and the most competitive rates in Europe. But when Britannia signed an agreement with Gunter Tours to take 300 German tourists on a Boeing 767 to the Dominican Republic and on to Mexico via Manchester, armed police at Cologne stopped passengers boarding. Instead Condor, a subsidiary of state-owned Lufthansa was told to take the passengers.

All charter carriers, such as Monarch, Air Tours and Caladonian, attempt to rent out their jets to foreign airlines during the winter when demand falls for British package tours. Monarch uses some of its aircraft to carry passengers to cruise ships based in Miami or to fly American cruise passengers to Nairobi and the Seychelles. Like others, they too are now facing bureaucratic red tape.

The potential for international business in the winter is enormous, said Bob Parker, *Editor of Britannia*. "But we all now seem to be caught up in a complex inter-governmental dispute which is nothing to do with us."

As the report was published, the Australian Tourist Commission announced a new television advertising campaign that will be launched in Britain in the new year, telling holidaymakers "now is the time to head Down Under".

The report said that tourism will boost the Australian economy with the number of jobs involved increasing by 27 per cent in the next decade.

Globally, the industry is likely to generate more than 100 million new jobs over the next ten years with the Asia-Pacific rim the fastest growing travel and tourism region, said Geoffrey Lipman, president of the world council, a coalition of more than 80 industry leaders.

"In Australia, the opportunity exists to create 25,000 new jobs each year. By 2006 travel and tourism is expected to generate 1.2 million jobs."

Mr Lipman warned, however, that certain restrictions needed removing for the boom to continue. "Growth in travel and tourism would be encouraged by continued liberalisation of markets for trade, transport and telecommunications and a visa waiver programme should be explored to improve ease of entry. The federal Government also needs to reconsider its funding for promotion."

The commission points out that it has a £20 million advertising contract with DMB&B, the New York-based agency, to promote the country. The commission and Singapore Airlines are spending £1 million on next year's television campaign.

Pia Byrne, a commission executive in London, said: "According to the latest MORI research, Australia continues to be the most desirable destination for British holidaymakers. Of the 350,000 British visitors expected this year, nearly half will be on a return visit."

Australia on crest of tourist boom

BY TONY DAWE

TRAVEL and tourism in Australia, voted the most desirable destination by British holidaymakers this week, is set to grow at a startling rate and create an extra 250,000 jobs over the next decade, according to industry leaders.

A report by the World Travel and Tourism Council has identified the country as one of the fastest growing tourist centres in the world, but calls on the Australian Government to do more to help the country achieve its potential. It suggests that visas should be waived to encourage more visitors.

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World's travel trade leaps into cyberspace

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

GOVERNMENT ministers, travel agents, hoteliers, airlines and tourist boards from 160 countries will next week compete in attempts to convince the British travel industry to recommend their destination to UK tourists.

More than 4,000 companies will take part in the World Travel Market at London's ExCel Centre where a central theme this year will be new technology. On-line services, virtual reality, "ticketless travel" and how to use the Internet are all on the agenda.

Paul Richer, of the travel technology consultancy Genesys, said: "Those companies that harness technology are more likely to prosper."



A monthly column from the security and detection agency

MODERATE RISK

In Brazil this year 20 people have been killed in crossfire during gun fights between rival drug gangs. Police have instituted beach patrols. The government of Chile is preparing for violence between November 8 and 11 during the Ibero-American summit in

Santiago. During the first eight months of 1996 an average of 675 robberies, rapes and murders a day were reported in Mexico City, an increase of 75 per cent on last year. Travel in the southeastern provinces of Turkey is discouraged. Since October 25 the PKK has twice sent suicide bombers against police targets. Poor air traffic control in southern Africa makes a mid-air collision "almost inevitable" according to the South African Airline Pilots Association.

HIGH RISK

Israel is on high alert as it anticipates bomb attacks by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

EXTREME RISK

On November 28 a referendum in Algeria will, if passed, ban political parties based solely on religion and crack-down on Islamic militants. Pinkerton 0181-424 8884

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Council guarantee beyond powers

Sutton London Borough Council v Morgan Grenfell & Co Ltd and Another

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Pill

[Judgment October 24]

A local authority had no power to give a bank guarantee for a loan to an unregistered housing association, nor was it authorised to indemnify the association against losses on a housing scheme.

Where Parliament had expressly enacted provisions defining the means by which local authorities were to carry out their functions, section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 could not be relied on in support of the performance of those functions by other means not expressly empowered by the relevant provisions.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing appeals by the first and second defendants, Morgan Grenfell & Co Ltd and Wellesley Housing Association, against a decision of Mr Justice Hirst on February 23, 1995 (1995 3 LGR 554) that a written guarantee dated May 21, 1990 between the plaintiff, Sutton London Borough Council, and the first defendant, Morgan Grenfell, and a written indemnity dated August 6, 1990 between the plaintiff and the second defendant were void and unenforceable against the plaintiff.

Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides:

"(1) ... subject to the provisions of this Act and any other enactment passed before or after this

Act, a local authority shall have power to do anything (whether or not involving the expenditure, borrowing or lending of money or the acquisition or disposal of any property or rights) which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of its functions."

Mr Anthony Mann, QC, for the first and second defendants; Miss Elizabeth Appleby, QC, and Mr Timothy Kerr for the local authority.

LORD JUSTICE PETER GIBSON said the powers of local authorities were limited by statute. Sutton had a duty to house the homeless under section 65 of the Housing Act 1985.

Wellesley, which was not registered as a housing association under section 4 of the Housing Associations Act 1985, had joined with Sutton in 1990 on a scheme to provide temporary housing for homeless families.

Wellesley had borrowed £1 million from the bank to buy houses in the borough which were leased to Sutton for three years. At the end of that time the houses were to be sold, the loan going to a new housing scheme.

Sutton guaranteed the bank against any loss on the sale and indemnified Wellesley against any losses it might suffer under the scheme. Wellesley's liability was limited to the proceeds of sale of the properties. Sutton's liability under the guarantee was not.

Wellesley had defaulted on payments on the loan from the bank and went into liquidation. Sutton

had informed the bank and the liquidator in November 1994 that its guarantee and indemnity were invalid and obtained a declaration to that effect in the Commercial Court.

The judge had said the decision to adopt the scheme was reasonably incidental to Sutton's performance of its duty to house the homeless and had assisted Wellesley to buy the houses and was prima facie within section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972.

But Sutton only had power by sections 58 and 60 of the Housing Associations Act 1985 to give such a guarantee if the housing association was registered, which Wellesley was not. The giving of the indemnity was prohibited by necessary implication.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL in *Credit Suisse v Waltham Forest LBC* (The Times May 21, 1996), in which his Lordship was also on the bench, had said that where Parliament had made detailed provisions as to how certain statutory functions were to be carried out, there was no scope for implying the existence of additional powers wholly outside the statutory code.

That case could not be distinguished from the instant case. Miss Appleby had put the point in a nutshell, contending that where Parliament had expressly enacted provisions defining the means by which local authorities were to carry out their functions, section 111(1) of the 1972 Act could not be relied upon in support of performance of those functions by other means not expressly empowered by the relevant provisions.

The local authority was now asserting that it was beyond its powers to do what it warranted it had the power to do and the innocent bank was left to suffer the consequences. That was unattractive.

LORD JUSTICE PILL agreed and LORD JUSTICE HIRST delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Norton Rose and Hammond Suddards; Sharpe Pritchard for Mr Tim Kerr, Sutton.

When Parliament intended to confer a power on a local authority, or a statutory body with housing functions like the Housing Corporation, to give a guarantee or an indemnity, it did so expressly.

It was simply inconceivable that Parliament ever intended by section 111, which did no more than put in statutory form what would be implicit at common law, to confer on a local authority power to incur a financial obligation to an unlimited extent by granting a guarantee or an indemnity when it had so clearly and in such detail regulated the local authority's powers of expenditure and borrowing and the granting of financial assistance.

It was only in cases covered by specific provisions expressly allowing guarantees and indemnities that the local authority could do so. If the local authority could not bring the case within such a provision, to grant a guarantee or indemnity was beyond its powers.

His Lordship dismissed the appeal with some regret.

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LORD JUSTICE PILL agreed and LORD JUSTICE HIRST delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Norton Rose and Hammond Suddards; Sharpe Pritchard for Mr Tim Kerr, Sutton.

Recovered sums offset against loss

Napier and Ettrick (Lord) and Another v R. F. Kershaw Ltd and Others

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Pill

[Judgment October 24]

Sums recovered by names, members of the Society of Lloyd's, from successful litigation against their agents for negligent underwriting fell within the terms of the premiums trust deed to which every name was required to be a party.

The recovered sums were thus available to be applied in discharging any outstanding indebtedness in respect of the underwriting losses of the names to Lloyd's.

However, amendments to the trust deed sought to be made by the Council of Lloyd's so as to make all litigation recoveries by names a component of the trust fund were invalid. Such amendments were within the contemplation of the parties when entering into the deed, its primary purpose having been compliance with section 83 of the Insurance Companies Act 1982.

The Court of Appeal so held in respect of judgments when a grant of an extension of time for bringing an appeal and allowing the appeal by the Society of Lloyd's from Mr Justice Saville who on May 14, 1992, had given judgment for the plaintiffs, Lord Napier and Ettrick, representing members of the Outwale 1982 Names' Association and Richards Butler, their solicitors who held the sums paid, and

2 allowing in part an appeal by Lord Napier and Ettrick against the judgment of Mr Justice Saville. Vice-Chancellor (The Times May 24, 1996) that had been in favour of the defendants, Mr David L. Woodward and Mr Anthony F. J. Wilson, names acting in a representative capacity.

The Vice-Chancellor's decision in that appeal refusing to declare provisions amending the trust deed valid was upheld, Lord Justice Hobhouse dissenting on that issue.

Mr Jules Sher, QC, Mr John

Child and Miss Joanne Wicks for Lloyd's; Mr Nicholas Warren, QC and Mr Paul Newman for Lord Napier and Ettrick; Richards Butler and Mr David Woodward; Mr Richard Stone, solicitor, for Mr Anthony Wilson.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the main question was whether the pre-1995 form of premiums trust deed which every name had to enter into pursuant to section 83(2) of the Insurance Companies Act 1982 embraced, in addition to premiums and other receipts of his underwriting business, sums recovered in litigation against his agents for negligent underwriting.

After Mr Justice Saville gave his decision in 1992 Lloyd's had decided, so as to avoid further confrontation with names, not to appeal. But that decision was made at a time when the magnitude of the problems which had come to confront Lloyd's by 1996 were not appreciated.

The failure by so many names to meet their liabilities had thrown a totally unexpected burden on the central fund, threatening Lloyd's future solvency.

Early in 1995 the plans for reconstructing and renewing Lloyd's were well advanced; the names' litigation recoveries had become critical to its completion. Thus Lloyd's applied for an extension of time and the court on July 26, 1996 had made the order and had proceeded with the hearing of the appeal.

Litigation recoveries in respect of negligent underwriting

The question was whether the recoveries fell within clause 2(a)(i) of the trust deed as being within the definition "all premiums and other moneys whatsoever" becoming payable to the name in connection with the underwriting business.

A premium was a receipt of the business. So too were recoveries in respect of negligent underwriting. The like. It was obvious that receipts of the business were sums payable to a name in connection with it.

But that was not as far as the clause 2 provision was intended to

go. It must have been intended to have some wider application.

A litigation recovery in respect of negligent underwriting was a sum paid to the name in order to restore him to the position he would have been in if his managing agents had acted competently.

In the obvious example it was a sum which replaced the lost excess of premiums over claims; likewise with an omission to reinsure or to make recoveries in respect of reinsurance or salvage, where it was the lost reinsurance or salvage moneys which were replaced.

There seemed to be no a priori reason for treating the replacement differently from that which it replaced. It was not just a case where the payment had something to do with the business. It was one where there was a real and substantial connection between the two. Clearly the recoveries fell within clause 2(a)(i) of the deed.

Moreover, the court was not constrained by authority to hold to the contrary: neither in *Society of Lloyd's v Morris* (1993 2 Re LR 217) nor in *Deasy v Gooda-Walker Ltd* (No 2) (1995 1 WLR 426) had the application of clause 2(a)(i) to litigation recoveries been considered.

Other litigation recoveries

The Woodward appeal, but not that of Lord Napier, also concerned other categories of recovery, including those against members' agents in respect of omissions to effect or advise in regard to stop loss insurance or negligence in selecting syndicates on which names were placed.

It appeared that *Society of Lloyd's v Morris* practically concluded the question in respect of some of the categories in favour of the names and as present advised it should be so held. But if after consideration of the judgments a decision was still needed and agreement could not be reached, further argument would be necessary.

Clause 22 amendments

By clause 22 of the trust deed ... the Council may from time to time revoke and determine the trusts hereby constituted ... in such manner as the Council think

fit. The essence of the amendments sought by Lloyd's was the introduction of a clause to make all litigation recoveries a component of the trust fund.

In *Hole v Garnsey* (1930 AC 472, 500) Lord Tomlin had said that a power to amend had to be construed as being "confined to amendments as being reasonably considered to have been within the contemplation of the parties when the contract was made."

The proposed amendments could not reasonably be considered to have been within the contemplation of the parties when the trust deed was entered into.

Its primary purpose having been to comply with section 83(2) of the 1982 Act, it could not have been intended to be capable of embracing assets personal to the name, even those which might be said to "have something to do with" his underwriting activities.

The deed was not intended, even to that limited extent, to be a means of attaching his personal assets as a fund for meeting the losses. Section 83(2) contained no requirement that personal assets should be carried to the trust fund. The amendments were invalid.

LORD JUSTICE HOBHOUSE concurred that the litigation recoveries fell within the terms of the trust deed but dissented on the clause 22 amendments.

He said that the Council of Lloyd's had acted within the scope of the decided cases. The amendments did not lead to any new considerations. They did not conflict with the essential nature of the transaction or the relationship between the relevant parties.

The amendments were designed to further the fundamental purpose of the deed to secure and assist the discharge of the names' liabilities to those they had undertaken to insure. The challenge to the validity of the amendments should fail.

LORD JUSTICE PILL gave a judgment concurring with Lord Justice Nourse.

Solicitors: Simmons & Simmons; Richards Butler; S. J. Berwin & Co.

Double taxation relief not available

Memec plc v Inland Revenue Commissioners

Before Mr Justice Robert Walker

[Judgment October 24]

A distribution to a United Kingdom company of a direct share of the profits earned by trading subsidiaries of a German holding company to a United Kingdom company under the terms of a silent partnership agreement could not be characterised as a payment of dividends for the purposes of Part XVIII of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 so that double taxation relief was not available to the UK company.

Mr Justice Robert Walker so held in the Chancery Division dismissing an appeal by the taxpayer company, Memec plc, from the refusal by a special commissioner, Mr T. H. K. Everen, of the company's claims for the relief from corporation tax for its accounting periods to December 1986, 1987 and 1988.

Mr Robert Venables, QC, and Mr Robert Gifford for the company; Mr Laurence Henderson, QC, for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE ROBERT WALKER said that the case was concerned both with Part XVIII of the Income and Corporation Taxes

Act 1988 and the Convention between the United Kingdom and Germany, made on November 26, 1964, and which was scheduled to the Double Taxation Relief (Taxes on Income) (German Federal Republic) Order (SI 1967 No 25), as amended by the protocol set out in the Schedule to the Double Taxation Relief (Taxes on Income) (Federal Republic of Germany) Order (SI 1971 No 374).

In 1985 the UK company entered into a silent partnership with a German company, Memec GmbH.

Profits earned by that company's German trading subsidiaries were thereby passed up to the taxpayer company not by way of conventional dividend but under the provisions as to profit-sharing contained in the partnership agreement.

The essential points of a silent partnership formed under the German Commercial Code were that the silent partner made a capital contribution to a commercial enterprise run by another who was designated the owner.

The owner remained the owner of the business assets and the income from them. The silent partner had a contractual right to payment of his share of the annual profits as shown by the partnership accounts.

The issue was whether the company was entitled, whether under the Convention or otherwise under domestic law or both, to credit in respect of the local trade tax (Gewerbesteuer) suffered by the subsidiaries on profits which were paid by them to Memec GmbH and in whose profits the company took a share under the silent partnership agreement.

Under the partnership agreement, the company did not receive or become entitled to dividends paid by the trading subsidiaries and thus could not achieve the direct route to treaty relief, by way of credit for trade tax paid by the trading subsidiaries, through section 788 of the 1988 Act and article XVIII(1)(a) and (b) of the Convention. Account had to be taken of the interposition of Memec GmbH and the silent partnership.

But the company argued, alternatively, that the relief was available by the less direct route of going part of the way by treaty relief, under section 788 of the Act and article XVIII(1) of the Convention, and the rest of the way by unilateral relief under section 801 of the Act.

That route required an unusual meaning to be given to "dividend" in article XVIII and then, in a further step, to "dividend" in

section 801. Dividends paid between related companies: relief for UK and third country taxes.

"Dividend" in article XVIII was to be given the same wide meaning as in the article VII(4) definition, as amended by the protocol. Thus it was to include a distribution of silent partnership profits. The company succeeded on that issue.

However, there was no special definition of "dividend" in Part XVIII of the 1988 Act. Mr Henderson pointed to the definition in section 45 of the Act and to Mr Justice Harman's comments in *Esso Petroleum Co Ltd v Ministry of Defence* (1990) Ch 163, 166: "In ordinary language today among people having some understanding of business a 'dividend' refers to a payment out of a part of the profits for a period in respect of a share in a company."

"Company" as used in the 1988 Act did not, in general, include a partnership. References to dividends in the 1988 Act, other than Part III dealing with Schedule C, were to the common form of distributions made by companies and could not include a distribution of profits made by a silent partnership.

Therefore the company's appeal had to be dismissed.

Solicitors: Finers; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Equitable interests are overreached

State Bank of India v Sood and Others

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Pill

[Judgment October 30]

Where land was mortgaged by trustees for sale as security but the mortgagees advanced no money to the mortgagor, the equitable interests of the beneficiaries under the trust for sale were overreached by the mortgage.

The need to comply with the statutory requirements for the payment of capital money under section 2(1)(g) of the Law of Property Act 1925 applied only if capital moneys arose at the time of making the mortgage.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, the State Bank of India, from a decision of Judge Willis in *Croydon County Court* on April 13, 1995 refusing to strike out parts of the defence of the defendants, Sardul Singh Sood, Baljit Singh Sood, Arjit Singh Sood, Daman Singh Sood, Sarjit Singh Sood, as personal representatives of Raksha Sood deceased, Kamaljit Singh Sood and Renu Sood, to the bank's claim for possession of 19 Landseer Road, Sutton, under a legal charge dated December 13, 1983.

Section 2 of the 1925 Act provides: "(1) A conveyance to a purchaser of a legal estate in land shall overreach any equitable interest or

power affecting that estate, whether or not he has notice thereof, if—(i) the conveyance is made by trustees for sale and the equitable interest or power is at the date of the conveyance capable of being overreached by such trustees ... and the statutory requirements respecting the payment of capital money arising under a disposition upon trust for sale are complied with."

Mr Grant Crawford for the bank; Mr Peter Havery for the third and fourth defendants, Mr Andrew A. Williams for the seventh defendant; the remaining defendants did not appear and were not represented.

LORD JUSTICE PETER GIBSON said the appeal raised a question of importance for conveyancers, creditors and for persons with only equitable interests in registered land.

The registered proprietors of the property were the first and second defendants. They had executed a second legal charge on it in favour of the plaintiff bank as security for the discharge on demand of all present and future liabilities of the joint and several and of Sobel Textiles Ltd.

The bank now claimed that the first and second defendants had failed to satisfy a debt of more than £1 million under the legal charge. In the possession proceedings, the third to seventh defendants claimed equitable interests in the property as their main residence.

That allegation was struck out by a deputy district judge on the bank's application but the judge had restored those parts of the defence.

Overreaching was the process whereby existing interests were subordinated to a later interest or estate created pursuant to a trust or power.

Under the 1925 property legislation a principal objective was to simplify conveyancing and the proof of title to land. To that end equitable interests were to be kept off the title to the legal estate and could be overreached on a conveyance to a purchaser who took free of them.

The third to seventh defendants claimed that their beneficial interests in the property which was registered land, coupled with their actual occupation, gave them overriding interests within section 70(1)(g) of the Land Registration Act 1925.

They said their interests were not overreached by the legal charge because no capital money arose under the charge at the time it was made. The bank's case was that there was no statutory requirement that capital money should arise contemporaneously with the disposition.

The crucial issue was the true construction of section 2(1)(g) of the Law of Property Act 1925. His Lordship analysed the legislative regime and concluded that on its true construction section 2(1)(g)

only required compliance with the statutory requirements respecting the payment of capital money if capital money arose. Accordingly, capital money did not have to arise under the conveyance.

On the execution of the legal charge, the interests of the third to seventh defendants were overreached and attached the equity of redemption regardless of their actual occupation. Their defence on that point could not succeed and should be struck out.

His Lordship could not pretend that the resulting position in the instant case was entirely satisfactory. The safeguard for beneficiaries under the existing legislation was largely limited to having two trustees or a trust corporation where capital money fell to be received.

That was no safeguard at all where, as in the instant case, no capital money was received on and contemporaneously with the conveyance. The Law Commission had recommended in *Transfer of Land, Overreaching: Beneficiaries in Occupation* (1989, Law Comm No 188) that a conveyance should not overreach the interest of a beneficiary in occupation unless he gave his consent.

LORD JUSTICE PILL delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Hirst agreed with both judgments.

Solicitors: Roys Treadwell; Lewis & Dick; Sutton; Dickinson Parkes Hill & Son, Ormskirk.

Employees not indemnified by council

Burgoin and Another v Waltham Forest London Borough Council and Another

Before Mr Justice Neuberger

[Judgment October 24]

A contractual indemnity granted by a local authority to its employees for defaults committed by them "in or about the pursuit of their duties on behalf of the council while acting within the scope of their authority" did not, as a matter of construction, cover defaults committed by the employees in the course of activities authorised by the council when that authorisation was ultra vires.

Mr Justice Neuberger so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division on a summons issued by Mr Alan Burgoin and Mr Ronald Cooke against Waltham Forest London Borough Council and Mr James McWhin, the district auditor.

Mr Jeremy McMullen, QC, and Mr Gordon Nardell for Mr Burgoin and Mr Cooke; Mr Alan Wilkie, QC, for the borough council; Miss Geneva Caws, QC, and Miss Helen Mountfield for the district auditor.

MR JUSTICE NEUBERGER said that in March 1988 the borough council resolved that it would indemnify its employees against claims made against them in relation to defaults "committed

by the employees in or about the pursuit of their duties on behalf of the council while acting within the scope of their authority."

That indemnity was incorporated in the contracts of Mr Burgoin and Mr Cooke who were assistant chief executive and assistant director of finance of the council.

In October 1988 the council, purportedly pursuant to its powers under section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to "provide ... such recreational facilities as it thinks fit" set up a company, Waltham Forest Water Park Ltd, to provide a water park for the public. The council nominated Mr Burgoin and Mr Cooke as directors of the company.

As a result of *NWS 6 Ltd v Waltham Forest Council* (The Times May 20, 1996; 1996 4 All ER 176) it was clear and agreed between the parties that setting up the company to discharge the section 19 function and causing Mr Burgoin and Mr Cooke to be appointed as directors was ultra vires the council and void.

The company was now in liquidation and the liquidators had brought proceedings under section

214 of the Insolvency Act 1986 seeking substantial sums from the directors by way of contribution to the company's assets, principally on the grounds of wrongful trading. The directors sought to enforce the indemnity in relation to any liability they might incur in the insolvency proceedings.

The council would be happy to accede but was not prepared to do so in light of the attitude of the district auditor appointed by the audit commission pursuant to section 12 of the Local Government Finance Act 1982 to audit the account of the council.

The district auditor argued that the contractual indemnity did not, as a matter of construction, extend to cover claims made against Mr Burgoin and Mr Cooke in their capacity as directors of the company. In his Lordship's judgment the district auditor's contentions were correct.

If the council had no capacity to appoint Mr Burgoin and Mr Cooke as directors of the company, as a matter of ordinary language, they could not have been said to be pursuing "their duties on behalf of the council" or "acting within the scope of their authority" as council officers when they were carrying out their functions as directors of the company.

If the council lacked the capacity to appoint them as directors of the company, it was hard to see how it

could be said that they had any "duties on behalf of the council" when they were acting as such directors.

It was also hard to see how they could be said to have been "acting within the scope of their authority" as officers of the council when acting as directors of the company if they could have had no such authority from the council.

So far as the reasoning in *Allerdale* was concerned, his Lordship did not consider that it conflicted with the decision he had reached.

First, his decision turned on the proper construction of the contractual indemnity, a rather different issue from that before the Court of Appeal in *Allerdale*.

Second, the decision and reasoning in *Allerdale* would seem to support the proposition that a contractual indemnity, by a local authority which, as a matter of public law, the local authority had no capacity to make, was unenforceable, as a matter of private law, against the local authority.

Accordingly, on that ground, he would hold that, as a matter of construction, the contractual indemnity did not assist Mr Burgoin and Mr Cooke in connection with the insolvency proceedings.

Solicitors: Lee Crowder, Birmingham; Mr Philip Jackson, Walthamstow; Rowe & Maw.

Privilege waived by membership of institute

Regina v Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales, Ex parte Taher Nawaz

Before Mr Justice Sedley

[Judgment October 25]

The privilege against self-incrimination was not restricted to legal proceedings strictly defined. A member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales could not avail himself of the privilege when required to answer questions in disciplinary investigations carried out by the institute as he had waived his right to the privilege by taking up membership.

Mr Justice Sedley so held in the Queen's Bench Division when refusing the application of Taher Nawaz for judicial review by way of certiorari to quash the dismissal by the appeals committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales of his appeal against findings made against him by the institute's disciplinary committee.

Mr Philip Engelhart for the applicant; Miss Monica Carsfrisk for the institute.

MR JUSTICE SEDLEY said that the modern state contained a considerable range of bodies and institutions with powers over the

lives and livelihoods of individuals which were sometimes more drastic than the powers of courts of law.

The institute of a good example. If such a body could penalise an individual in an extreme case by taking away his livelihood, for refusing to answer questions which might harm him, the mischief was no different from that of enforcing an answer to such a question in court.

There was no doubt that the privilege against self-incrimination, like any personal privilege, could be waived.

It was also clear that it was prima facie waived by becoming a

member of the institute on the terms of its present rules.

It was only if public law would not tolerate a role which demanded self-incrimination that the term of the applicant's membership of the institute would fail.

His Lordship did not consider that a role which might require self-incrimination by a chartered accountant against which a relevant complaint was already extant was today objectionable in public law.

Solicitors: Howard Cohen & Co, Leeds; Denton Hall, Milton Keynes.



■ FILM 1

Liam Neeson plays "the Big Fella" in *Michael Collins*, Neil Jordan's epic of Irish revolution



■ FILM 2

Lush visual images, sex, complexity: Peter Greenaway is in vintage form in *The Pillow Book*

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ FILM 3

An adult with Down's syndrome brings joy to the life of a harassed businessman in *The Eighth Day*



■ FILM 4

A little late for Hallowe'en, but *Craft* is lively hokum about black arts in a high school



"A film of alluring beauty and astounding invention": Vivien Wu in Peter Greenaway's *The Pillow Book*

More martyr – and more art

Given his credentials as the martyred hero of Irish republicanism and a founding father of guerrilla warfare, no film about Michael Collins could slip out unnoticed. Least of all could this happen to a film bankrolled by Warner Bros. and directed by Neil Jordan and pushed at the world market.

In *Michael Collins* Liam Neeson bestrides the screen as the man known as "the Big Fella", striding down Dublin streets, charisma unfurled, coat-tails flying. In the shadows is Julia Roberts. Hollywood's pretty woman, available whenever the hero needs a break from strategy, gathering intelligence or shooting the British in their homes. The action alone transfixes the eye: gunfire, explosions, an armoured car invading a football stadium, strafing the crowd. No matter what your allegiance, or the current state of Anglo-Irish relations, this is a film that demands you take notice.

But what kind of notice? Although Jordan's script never seriously deforms the facts as it tracks Collins's progress from the Easter uprising of 1916 to his death in an ambush six years later, the film never spends much time explaining the political issues to a general audience. After the briefest of opening credits backtracking through Irish history, Jordan hits us with shells and crumbling masonry, as the fledgling army of the Irish Republic is shot down by the British in 1916. So it goes on, with as much exemplary physical action as an old-fashioned Hollywood adventure, superbly shot by cameraman Chris Menges, and cut to the quick.

Not that Neeson's Collins exactly fits the pigeonhole of an idealised adventure hero. He is allowed to be ruthless as he plots assassinations; he is allowed to be naive. But by making such a point of the man's dynamism, the hurtling

CINEMA: Geoff Brown admires an all-action *Michael Collins* with hidden depths, and a Greenaway epic with rather more obvious ones

Michael Collins

Warner West End
15, 132 mins
Action outstages politics in Neil Jordan's epic

The Pillow Book

Lumiere, 18, 130 mins
Astounding images from Peter Greenaway

The Eighth Day

Curzon West End
PG, 117 mins
Disappointing successor to *Toto the Hero*

The Craft

Warner West End
15, 101 mins
Witchcraft hits high school

Fled

Plaza, 18, 128 mins
Brainless action fodder

Farewell My Lovely

ABC Panton Street
PG, 95 mins
Vintage thriller with Philip Marlowe

speed of his walk and talk, the film certainly paints Collins in worshipping colours. His opposite number is Alan Rickman's Eamon de Valera, the nationalists' leader, dry and deliberate even when he escapes from jail dressed as a woman. For all Neeson's gusto, Rickman is the one you watch in their joint scenes; Stephen Rea is equally powerful as the police informer in the bowels of Dublin Castle. As for Julia Roberts, cast as Collins's lover Kitty Kiernan,

she serves a plot purpose early on, then gets in the way by still appearing when she does not.

Robert's continued presence points up the film's frustrated ambitions. Irish history is too complex, and for many audiences too remote, to be streamlined into a Hollywood action epic; and by putting so much stress on the physical action, the tit-for-tat atrocities of the British and Irish forces, Jordan gives ammunition to those eager for any sign of bias. Clearer heads should appreciate the film for its imperfect but heartfelt portrayal of a man and a movement lifted by passion, but brought low by terrorism.

The Pillow Book is another film impossible to ignore. The director is Peter Greenaway, and he means us to roll up our sleeves and work. Images of various sizes are overlaid on the screen, recalling — and surpassing — the high-tech jungle of *Prospero's Books*. Each picture is meaty enough even when viewed singly: naked bodies covered with calligraphy; a jet plane flying low across a Hong Kong street; a fashion show; evocations of the *Pillow Book* of Sei Shonagon, the 10th-century text that inspired Greenaway.

At first it looks as though we are never going to make headway. We are not so much watching a film as wading through the world's most baffling CD-Rom. But be patient. Over time, a plot rises: and we follow the life of fashion model Nagiko (Vivien Wu), daughter of a calligrapher whose birthday habit of painting a greeting on her face inspires a typical Greenaway obsession. She insists her lovers express

their devotion by writing on her body. Sex and text: the two become fused. Then an English translator in Hong Kong (the ubiquitous Ewan McGregor) suggests turning the tables: she writes on them. Further extensions of the plot concern a publisher, a failed suicide, and 13 erotic books written all over 13 men.

Greenaway will never be the most humane of directors. People for him pale in importance beside words, images and intellectual games. But give him his due: he has created a film of alluring beauty and astounding invention that pushes the boundaries of narrative cinema.

Jaco van Dormael suffers from an overdose in *The Eighth Day*. Dormael's first film, *Toto the Hero*, was an ebullient, absurdist comedy about youth, old age and life's disappointments. This one plods through a slender story about a businessman (Daniel Auteuil), who is put in touch with his inner child by an adult with Down's syndrome. Pascal Duquenne brings over with natural charm as the Down's sufferer who sticks to Auteuil like glue; and Dormael creates some dazzling flights of fantasy, bringing magic into everyday life. But once the ornaments are scraped off, you are still left staring at a banal story that grows ever more simpering, shallow and sentimental.

Hollywood has little to offer this week, although *The Craft* deserves a modest welcome for adding a wrinkle to the high school movie genre, and showcasing lively young actresses such as Fieruzza Balk and Robin Tunney. The wrinkle is witchcraft, practised by four social misfits at a Los Angeles school. Director and co-writer Andrew Fleming treats their vengeful pranks with jaunty black humour. Then, sadly, the film capsizes into routine horror.

Fled is even more of a factory product: a compendium of chases, fights and movie rip-offs, loosely tied to an improbable plot about escaped convicts, the Cuban Mafia, and an incriminating computer disk. Laurence Fishburne's forceful presence helps, but the charms of Stephen Baldwin, his handcuffed chum, prove elusive.

For a good Hollywood film this week, you have to go back 52 years and watch Dick Powell as Philip Marlowe getting slugged, drugged and bamboozled in *Farewell My Lovely*. The Chandler classic also glories in taut direction from Edward Dmytryk, expressionist lighting, a delightfully unsavoury supporting cast, and moments of wonderful insolence: look at the way Marlowe lights his match on the bottom of a statue of Cupid. Treat yourself.

'Worryingly misleading'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases...

■ **MICHAEL COLLINS**
Danielle Young, 20: This romanticised Hollywood epic is worryingly misleading. Lisa Knight, 19: Excellent: the violence is abundant, but accurate and unglamorised. Jessica Craig, 20: The film creates its force through slaughter, never from an understanding or sympathy towards the people and their fight. Bill Staples, 21: An impressive period drama. However, Liam Neeson's portrayal of Collins resembles Oskar Schindler, while Alan Rickman makes an abortive attempt at an Irish accent.



■ **THE PILLOW BOOK**
Danielle: Beautiful and stylish. If the combination of calligraphy and sex excites you, then this is a must — but then again, so is counselling. Lisa: This potentially interesting tale is unconvincing and tedious to watch. Jessica: The first hour makes calligraphy a playful and arousing world. The second

hour degenerates into nastiness with style. Bill: Obsessive and repetitious to the point of tedium. Worth watching only for the unintentionally hilarious screenplay.

■ **THE EIGHTH DAY**
Danielle: Attempts to combine comedy and tragedy but achieves neither and leads to rather disturbing viewing. Lisa: Both leading performances are excellent and help to magnify society's insecurity and fear of disabled people. Jessica: Inventive hallucinations and moments of surprising sensitivity. Bill: Unoriginal script betrays traces of greater films, but fails to live up to any of them. Overly sentimental.

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CHOICE 1

Victoria Wood's comedy, *Talent*, goes on stage in Bolton

VENUE: Now in preview at the Octagon



CHOICE 2

...and curtain up for Caryl Churchill's *Light Shining*

VENUE: From tonight, Gulbenkian, Canterbury

THE TIMES ARTS



NEW VIDEOS

Sense and Sensibility receives the quality treatment from Ang Lee and Emma Thompson



NEW CDS

Bryn Terfel tunes his operatic baritone to the ballads of Rodgers and Hammerstein

LONDON

BUENOS AIRES PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: Spanish-born Carlos Nuñez conducts the Argentine orchestra on its first visit to Britain since its foundation 50 years ago. Together with members of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Buenos Aires Philharmonic will perform an explosive programme of Spanish and Latin American music, including Turina's *Danzas Fantásticas*, three dances from *Los Tres Corrales* by de Falla, and Górriz's dances from the ballet *El Estrecho*. The evening begins with the Argentine pianist Bruno Leonardo Gálvez playing Brahms's Piano Concerto No. 1. **Barbican, Sat, 8pm, £12 (11-13) £38 (14-17) £55 (18-21) £72 (22-25) £89 (26-29) £106 (30-31) £123 (32-35) £140 (36-39) £157 (40-43) £174 (44-47) £191 (48-51) £208 (52-55) £225 (56-59) £242 (60-63) £259 (64-67) £276 (68-71) £293 (72-75) £310 (76-79) £327 (80-83) £344 (84-87) £361 (88-91) £378 (92-95) £395 (96-99) £412 (100-103) £429 (104-107) £446 (108-111) £463 (112-115) £480 (116-119) £497 (120-123) £514 (124-127) £531 (128-131) £548 (132-135) £565 (136-139) £582 (140-143) £599 (144-147) £616 (148-151) £633 (152-155) £650 (156-159) £667 (160-163) £684 (164-167) £701 (168-171) £718 (172-175) £735 (176-179) £752 (180-183) £769 (184-187) £786 (188-191) £803 (192-195) £820 (196-199) £837 (200-203) £854 (204-207) £871 (208-211) £888 (212-215) £905 (216-219) £922 (220-223) £939 (224-227) £956 (228-231) £973 (232-235) £990 (236-239) £1007 (240-243) £1024 (244-247) £1041 (248-251) 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TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Mealey

CHOICE 1

Oscar and O'Grady Stach complete the evening's recital. With Deborah York, soprano, and Katharina Spracklen, mezzo and oboe of the

Wigmore Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-835 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm

CHOICE 2

BOLTON Revival of Victoria Wood's sharply comic *Talent*, set in a seedy nightclub back in the 1970s where a

two-hander for Andrew Hall and James Hinde playing two humorists with a

secret in common. From tonight, 8pm. Octagon, 11.11pm. Then Mon-Fri, 8pm. Sat, 8pm. Sun, 5.30pm.

THE KING'S CONSORT

Robert King leads the early music group in four

bach concertos, and vocal music by

Francis Tunder, including an

Western Mass. Rhapsody and *Ack Herr*,

two songs from England. Tunder was

suicided as organist in Lübeck by

Detrich Budehude, whose O'Grady

concerts are at the Octagon.

ART

Albert Finney: Tom Courtenay

and Sam Stone in an exceptionally

interesting drama about friendship,

unrequited love and an almost

altruistic career. Matthew Warchus

directs. *Warchus*, Charing Cross Rd, WC2

(0171-732 9311). Mon-Sat, 8pm. Sun,

mat, 3pm. Sat and Sun, 5pm.

BLIND BY THE SUN

Francis de la Tour, Duncan Bell and Douglas

Hodge play scenarios involving a

case of a child's death. Ron Daniels

directs. *Blind by the Sun*, South Bank, SE1

(0171-802 2522). Tonight, 8pm. Sun,

mat, 3pm. Sat, 2.30pm. In rep.

THE ENTERTAINMENT

Perennium in strongly cast production,

by Stephen Rymk, of *Perennium*, a

portrait of mid-century England.

Perennium, South Bank, SE1

(0171-802 2522). Mon-Sat, 8pm. Sun,

mat, 3pm. Sat, 2.30pm. In rep.

THE GAY DETECTIVE

George Clooney's detective success in which a

young Garda sergeant is told to use his

grit to solve puzzling cases. *Solo*, at

Cineplex, 200 Victoria Road, NW6

(0171-338 1000). Mon-Sat, 8pm. Sun,

mat, 3pm. Sat, 2.30pm. In rep.

LAUGHTER ON THE 23RD

Floor Neil Simon's witty account of

working under a team of songwriters

for comedian Sam Coslow back in the

1950s. *Laughter on the 23rd*, 100



THEATRE 1
Wraps off the historic Lyceum Theatre, but what a shame about the garish colour scheme



THEATRE 2
Peter Whelan's fine play about Shakespeare's daughter, *The Herbal Bed*, comes to London

THE TIMES ARTS



DANCE
Edouard Lock explores the ageing process in his disappointing new piece with *La La La*



TOMORROW
US playwright Jon Marans on bringing his New York hit, *Old Wicked Songs*, into the West End

Enigma with attitude

MAZZY STAR have achieved success by stealth. This group of Californians formed around the writing team of David Sandoval and guitarist David Roback first surfaced on the 1990 Rough Trade album *She Hangs Brightly*. Following reviews led them to a contract with Parlophone, and 1992's follow-up, *So That I Might See*, went on to sell more than a million. Since then, word-of-mouth and appearances on such as *Barman* have helped to maintain a momentum. *Flowers in December*, a single from the newly-released third LP *Among My Swan*, actually grazed the Top 40. But the band members themselves remain relatively unknown.

At Union Chapel, the wait-like Sandoval proves to be the ultimate in underdemonstrative, self-contained vocalists. In fact, she offers not one word of between-songs chat during her 70 minutes on stage. At times, you have to look closely to make sure she is there at all: her plangent but artless voice can blend so atomically with the sounds created by her fellow musicians that it becomes just another instrument. And, instead of standing in the glare of anything so intrusive as a spotlight, she prefers to bathe in a dull blue haze, or to disappear into the shadows altogether — a shrinking violet, almost literally.

But despite her low-key presence — animation suggested only by the shaking of a tambourine or by the repeated pushing-back from her face of two curtains of long dark hair — Sandoval reeds her audience in, bit by bit. The cumulative effect of Mazy Star's catalogue is hypnotic and beguiling. Some of the songs here have the purity of folk music, others stray into vaguely malevolent, psychedelic C&W, but with them she builds an increasingly trance-like, powerfully emotional mood. Perhaps because of the setting, old favourites such as *Blue Flower* or *Shirley* are greeted over-reverently, and it takes the appearance of William Reid from the Jesus and Mary Chain to create a little welcome tension. By the time it ends though, in a blur of strobe lights and guitar feedback, Sandoval is gone, with no word or gesture of goodbye but with her enigma intact.

ALAN JACKSON

THEATRE: The Lyceum reveals its new interior; plus some Shakespearean family trouble

Rolling out the red everything

To a fanfare of trumpets, the Lyceum, one of London's largest, grandest and most historic theatres, will reopen on November 19. Despite repeated calls to revive it, the Lyceum lay dark for more than half a century, serving out an indefinite sentence as the Mecca Ballroom, until its closure ten years ago. Now its new owner, Apollo Leisure, says it has spent £15 million on refurbishments.

The great portion by the corner of the Aldwych, sparkling with fresh cream paint and boardings are set tastefully in the niches. Once up the stairs into the auditorium, however, there is only one word to describe the new décor: ghastly. This is unquestionably the most garish and insensitive restoration of a major historic interior since the Queen's House in Greenwich opened its doors nearly a decade ago.

The interior of the Lyceum is all the badly-tarted-up provincial hotels I have ever seen rolled into one. Lipstick reds of a virulent hue assault the eye wherever you turn, from the stalls to the gods, along endless corridors and around every one of the spacious new bars. Only in the foyer has Apollo Leisure allowed a more restful cream.

The result is overwhelmingly oppressive and monstrously discordant. This unremitting red (which behind doors occasionally turns to magenta) is even worse than the barrels of gold paint used to touch up every ornamental detail.

Now add the classic error of using different patterns on every surface, repro incrusta by the furlong, huge foliage swirls on the carpets and tiny leaves on the seat covers, and then

roll upon roll of the same cheap-looking red and gold wallpaper in every wall panel in the theatre.

The woodwork appears to come from *Dial-a-Moulding*, and the light fittings are Caesar's Palace-style illuminated glass punchbowl in the auditorium and fussy little bunches of glass droplets in the bars. Themed pubs, Texas bordellos, Indian restaurants — there is a touch of them all.

Both English Heritage and the Theatres Trust (which owns the theatre) murmur discreetly about the opportunity for a more faithful colour scheme when the new set installed for Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Jesus Christ Superstar* is removed. At present, John Napier's stunning design, erupts through the proscenium arch, swallowing up newly restored boxes on either side in a forest of timber scaffolding.

Napier evidently saw in one minute that the way to save the show was to dim the lights and "distress" the boxes next to the stage, painting them in soft beiges and browns. In doing this, he has actually helped to highlight the best aspect of the Apollo restoration: the first-class quality of the new plasterwork, which is a brilliant match of the original ebullient ornament in the 1904 designs of Bertie Crewe.

Interior decoration aside, Apollo Leisure deserves credit for bringing back into use a theatre which rivals the Coliseum in size and splendour — without a penny of public money. The Lyceum's fame is due above all to the great Henry Irving, the greatest of all actor-managers —

though of course Irving never acted in the present building.

Even more than most London theatres, the Lyceum's history has been marked by adversity. Of the Regency theatre, by Samuel Beazley, only the portico survives. The auditorium on which Irving trod the boards is no more; it was rebuilt with real style by Crewe, one of the best set designers of his day. The new Lyceum continued in use until 1939 when — disgracefully — it was compulsorily purchased to make way for a road-building scheme (abandoned on the outbreak of war). Apollo has not only rescued the theatre from decay and dry rot, the company has also made a massive investment in completely rebuilding the stage and backstage, with a new fly tower with 76 cradles, as well as a hydraulically operated orchestra pit.

Once in your seat, any seat, you should find the restored Lyceum a marvellous place to watch a show. It retains a fantastic sense of intimacy for all its size. The Dublin architects Holohan have increased leg room by reducing seating from 2,700 to 2,000 (1,800 for the run of *Jesus Christ Superstar*).

So the real test is to persuade Apollo to redecorate the interior. I am far from convinced that searching for a historically authentic colour scheme, gold leaf and all, is the right approach in this case. The whole scale and brio of Crewe's design is that of a stage set, and it needs a light touch to bring it alive.

MARCUS BINNEY

Jesus Christ Superstar starts previewing this Saturday, and opens at the Lyceum (071-656 1807) on Nov 19



Through a glass darkly: a glimpse of the Lyceum's decor, where themed pub meets Texas bordello

Shakespeare's wayward daughter

Shakespeare may not have been Montague, Capulet, Gloucester, Lear or Leontes, but his child, certainly caused him grief. His only son died in boyhood. His younger daughter hitched her wagon to one of Stratford's wilder citizens. And marriage to the eminent physician, John Hall, did not stop scandal striking his elder one. In 1613, three years before the dramatist's death, Susanna sued a certain John Lane for slander after he publicly accused her of "running of the raynes", i.e. a bad case of the clap, and having an affair with a haberdasher called Rafe Smith.

Was she guilty? A church court in Worcester declared not. But Peter Whelan, author of *The Herbal Bed*, suspects that the truth may be subtler, more complex, you might say more Shakespearean. She was

The Herbal Bed Barbican Pit

to concocting a dodgy plot and making everyone believe it. All the characters, from David Tennant's feckless, volatile Lane to Liam Cunningham's dourly well-meaning Hall, are made of what the Bard once called "mingled yarn, good and ill together". Its twin subjects are human contradiction and the evasions, fibs and fixes that enable marriages, families,

medical practices and just about everything else to work. It is also about the puritanism that Dr Hall is prepared to compromise but Boxer's icy inquisitor will clearly embrace until the last cavalier disappears and Shakespeare and the theatre follow him into the oubliette.

This is an intelligent, enjoyable evening, and, thanks to Michael Attenborough's direction, a pretty well-acted one. If Teresa Banham's Susanna is comfier and less flustered than she should surely be, Joseph Fiennes comes into his own

with a performance of boggling anxiety and bug-eyed confusion. And what of Shakespeare, who made a guest appearance in Whelan's equally excellent *The School of Night*? Sadly, the evening ends as he is about to be carried into the Hall home, suffering from the ailment his daughter does not have. But at least this means we do not have to see his raynes running. It is, after all, his running braynes that matter.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

"AN ENDEARING COMEDY THAT STRIKES GOLD"

THE EIGHTH DAY

STARTS TOMORROW

Power to no purpose

EDOUARD LOCK has been winning awards in North America for the past 15 years, and has established himself and his Montreal-based troupe, *La La La Human Steps*, as one of Canada's premier cultural exports. For his company's return to Britain, after an absence of five years, he brings the much-travelled 2, a 1995 work that shows Lock looking to the kind of future most dancers would rather not contemplate.

The ageing process is paraded before us in glaring close-up on two giant screens that display filmed images of Louise Lecavalier, the extraordinary star of *La La La*. On one screen she is seen as she appears on stage — a vibrant and physically assertive young woman. On the other she is made up — to brilliant effect — as a frightened 95-year-old, in whose physical confidence has been stripped away by the indignities of the passing decades. Both of them are eating, the young Louise with lustful eagerness, the old Louise with tentative concentration. Their contrasting pictures they paint are striking.

But 2 is a dance piece, so choreography — not cinema — must feature highest on the list of priorities. Lock's choreography is famous for its physical recklessness, its dazzling speed and its full-frontal assault on an audience's senses. His dancers — especially the women — possess an extravagant muscularity and an audacious grace. But it is more obvious with 2, a work

DANCE

La La La Human Steps Peacock

that finds Lock taking a more introverted approach, how limited his vocabulary is and how ill it serves his conception.

His structure is wilfully anarchic — no beginning, no middle and no end — and the film inserts are chaotically interspersed into dance which feels completely unrelated. The abrasive and exhausting duets and ensembles are almost interchangeable despite differences in gender. There is

no tenderness, no humour, no emotional engagement.

The ravaged dancers (four men, four women) are — with the exception of Lecavalier — not allowed to be anything but ciphers. The music is a dreadful sludge of colourless harpsichord writing (original score by Gavin Bryars, played live on stage by two harpsichordists) which alternates with the distressed, distorted wails of guitar-based rock (musical borrowings include, among others, Iggy Pop).

Lecavalier, though, remains an outstanding dance artist, with the vulnerability of a street urchin and the audacity of a street fighter. She is the fire in the soul of 2, and in the end its only justification.

DEBRA CRAINE



Ravaged duo: Fabien Prioville and Louise Lecavalier

WHY SETTLE FOR THE TITTLE-TATTLE WHEN YOU CAN READ THE DUCHESS OF YORK'S OWN STORY?

HELLO!

Beginning this week only in Hello!

Ian McIntyre enjoys the sharp eye and sharper tongue of a diarist who kept company with Huxley and Garbo

In the plumes of his vanity

Only good girls keep diaries. "Bad girls don't have the time," said Tallulah Bankhead. "Bad girls have had all the time in the world — not only to keep them, but subsequently to revise or expand the entries and write bridging narrative to fill the gaps. This massive first volume begins in January 1939 when he and Wylan Auden sailed from Southampton on the French liner *Champlain* bound for New York.

"Well," I said, "we're off again." "Good," said Auden. "The diary-keeping habit had been instilled by his mother. From the time of his christening in 1904, Kathleen Isherwood kept a record of her infant's achievements. She called it *The Baby's Progress* and she kept it up until the baby published its first novel at the age of 24. Mother and child (he was six at the time) also embarked on a literary collaboration, producing a small book called *The History of My Friends*.

The child is father of the man, even in the case of children who never fully grow up. "What is the matter with you, Mr Isherwood?" his Indian guru asks him severely one day in 1941 when he discovers he has been taking lessons in *bashtika*, air swallowing and other hatha yoga exercises. "Surely you do not want Eternal Youth?" "I was silent and hung my head," writes Isherwood. "because, of course, I did."

The diaries served as a rich source of raw material for his fiction, but Katherine Bucknell says that he also attests to his puritanical need to account for himself. "Isherwood's father's family traced their descent from John Bradshaw, the judge who sentenced Charles I to death. He used them to discipline himself in his not infrequent periods of laziness or promiscuity. 'Who are you — who writes all this?' runs a 1958 entry. 'Why do you

write? Is it compulsion? Or an alibi — to disprove the charge of what crime?" Bucknell, writing of Isherwood's biography of Ramakrishna, remarks that he "freighted the book heavily with quotidian detail". The same might be said of some sections of these diaries. Passages like "I arrived here on the 27th. Gerald is upstairs. Chris is at the piano. Paul is washing his hair" hardly make us feel we are looking over the shoulder of a Pepsy or a Boswell.

The frequent accounts of homosexual bickering are also eminently skippable, and Isherwood's obsessive concern with his own health and that of his boyfriend of the moment quickly becomes tedious. It was no doubt somewhat alarming that Don Bachardy's tongue should turn black in Tangier, but people who amuse themselves by eating majoon and smoking kif with Paul Bowles should presumably budget for the occasional nasal

surprise. (Major is a concoction made from hemp leaves, datura and poppy seeds, herbane, honey and ghee. Isherwood thought it resembled Christmas pudding.) But there is also much to admire. "Leave literature to the war correspondents," Isherwood writes. "Record." He is a master of the "arresting cameo": "She was a whale of a girl with breasts like an Alpine meadow"; Bertrand Russell is "that monkey-gland lobster in a woolly, toy-sheep wig". His account of his first meeting with Swami Prabhavananda is incomparable. "I felt terribly awkward — like a rich, over-dressed woman, in the plumes and bracelets of my vanity."

He brilliantly catches Julian Huxley, anxious for the latest news of brother Aldous, whose *Grey Eminence* had alarmed him. "Did he — I mean — er, that is — do you mean to say he actually, er, really — prays?" Of Aldous himself, he writes: "Stupidity afflicts him



Isherwood (left) with W. H. Auden in 1938; the two first collaborated on a prose-verse play, *The Dog Beneath the Skin*, three years earlier

like a nasty smell — and how eagerly he sucks at the dry taste of books!" At a picnic given by the Huxleys he encounters Garbo, who has come to meet Krishnamurti. "She wanted to be told the secret of eternal life, but quickly, in one lesson, before her butterfly attention wandered away again."

He meets Jean Marais, "foxy and bedroom eyed"; the "film-maker" Robert Flaherty, "carrying his big stomach, uneasily under his clothes, like something he has stolen"; and Ingrid Bergman. "She wasn't beautiful like Garbo, but she was radiantly appetizing," Isherwood writes. "The tall, thick-necked movie men called her 'baby' and pinched her funny. She laughed — but it was like pinching the Venus de Milo." There are several memorably appalling encounters with Dylan Thomas, "grappling with his life as if he were a policeman". Isherwood took him to a restaurant on Sunset Boulevard with Charlie Chaplin and Shelley Winters. Thomas stared at her breasts and asked if they were real. "Sure," laughed the good-natured Winters, but this was not good enough for Dylan. "Let me feel them," he demanded. "All right," replied Shelley, "but only with two fingers."

Isherwood greatly admired the journals of the Goncourts. "Here, gossip achieves the epigrammatic significance of poetry. To keep such a diary is to render a real service to the future." The same accolade might fairly be bestowed on these pages. But I hope Volume Two is a bit shorter.

The inclination to goodness

THIS IS a profoundly learned and a profoundly ignorant book, stimulating and exasperating in equal measure. Since both characters are marked by an extraordinary vigour of style and conviction, I shall have to write two reviews instead of one.

Review Number One: Darwin's theory of evolution implies that the human character is the outcome of a struggle among the "selfish genes", as Richard Dawkins calls them, whose only concern is to propagate, and to destroy competitors. How is it that we — the by-products of this struggle — have such a pronounced tendency to altruism? Ridley calls upon biology, ethology, anthropology, game theory and cognitive science, in order to develop a plausible and erudite solution.

Game-theory specialises in situations in which self-interests find compelling reason to defect from their promises. By promising to dig your garden, I secure your co-operation in digging mine. But now that mine has been dug, what reason have I to fulfil my part of the bargain? In the conditions of society, those who defect seem to have a strategic advantage over those — the virtuous — who don't.

Game-theorists, taking advantage of computer simulation, have explored the ability of the various "nice" and "nasty" strategies to survive in mixed populations of players. They have shown that, in the long run, the defectors will be driven out by populations programmed to play in nice ways. As Ridley elegantly suggests, these studies provide a model for the process whereby selfish genes produce altruistic populations.

The hive and the ant-heap, in which whole populations lay down their lives for their queen, illustrate the point. And their highly successful genetic strategy has its parallel in us. But there is also a vast difference. The hive is devoted to a single set of genes, those of the queen. In human societies many genes contend for perpetu-

ity. What function is served in this arrangement, by human virtue? Ridley's discussion takes us on a fascinating journey through other tribes and other species. His answer in a nutshell is that, unlike the bee, we are designed "not to sacrifice ourselves for the group but to exploit the group for ourselves". Our moral sentiments — guilt, compassion, remorse and so on — are only ~~selfish~~ selfish devices to draw on the fund of social trust, and so augment their powers.

From this picture Ridley goes on to explain, with imaginative examples, the feelings of group-identity, the practices of

You can easily reduce human behaviour to a by-product of the gene when you describe the gene as "selfish". But this term can be truly applied only to that which is aware of the distinction between self and other — ie, only to the thing which has to be explained, and not to the thing which is supposed to explain it. We are self-conscious beings, who take responsibility for our past and future, and who justify our conduct with reasons offered to all mankind. How is that possible? If you have not answered this question, then you have not explained the "origins of virtue".

MOREOVER, the picture of rationality which Ridley takes from game-theory is a caricature. Rational beings have values as well as interests. Kant never mentioned by Ridley, argued persuasively that we reason about our ends, in terms of the "categorical imperative". This tells us to do as we would be done by, and to treat rational beings as ends and never as means only. If ordinary practical reason propels us towards virtue, Ridley is looking for the origins of virtue in the wrong place.

Ridley's references to philosophers are confined to those — Hobbes, Hume and Adam Smith — whom he takes to be precursors of the Darwinian project. Had he consulted Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* he would have discovered a far more plausible antecedent for the view that virtue is a long-term strategy. But Aristotle, like Kant, holds that it is only rational beings who can be virtuous, and that rationality is not governed by the laws of animal nature.

Set beside the subtle reasoning of Aristotle and Kant, Ridley's attempt to justify the ways of man to man looks like a caricature. But most readers will not see this. The book will therefore reinforce the insidious biologism of popular science, and give credence to those who can see no differences of degree. To explain virtue in this way is, I fear, also to undermine it.

Roger Scruton

THE ORIGINS OF VIRTUE

By Matt Ridley

Viking, £20

ISBN 0 670 86357 2

war, trade and religion, and virtue itself — in short, all that seems distinctive of human societies. He has some trenchant criticisms to make of modern collectivism, and of the uncritical sentimentality about other species and "natural" ways of life which have colonised the ecological movement. If environmentalists were as knowledgeable as Ridley, they would surely cease to be a danger.

Review Number Two: Ridley wishes to show the deep similarities between human beings and other animals, in order to remove any doubts that the same kind of explanation applies to both. For him, the moral life is simply a more advanced version of genetic strategies which are observable throughout the biosphere. His whole argument, however, is topsy-turvy. He "proves" that human conduct replicates the strategies of primitive organisms, only by describing those organisms in anthropomorphic terms.

Path of the cannon-ball

Artemis Cooper

HOW FAR FROM AUSTERLITZ? Napoleon 1805-1815
By Alistair Horne
Macmillan, £18.99
ISBN 0 333 65549 4

A conqueror, like a cannon-ball, said the Duke of Wellington, "must go on; if he rebounds, his career is over." Napoleon was aware of it too. "My power would fail were I not to support it by new glory and new victories. Conquest has made me what I am, and conquest alone can maintain me." Yet Napoleon, artillery expert though he was, never seems to have grasped the ballistic certainty underlying both those statements. His career was a parabola. Sooner or later, it must lose speed and fall.

How Far From Austerlitz is a study of Napoleon's driving force which could, as Horne puts it, "win striking victories, but still lose wars — and the peace". At the heart of the book is the point that the Napoleonic victories, from Austerlitz in 1805 to Friedland in 1807, were too great. Against the advice of Talleyrand, who wanted to see stability in Europe, Napoleon crushed Austria, Russia and Prussia, forced them into the Continental System which, he hoped, would isolate and final-

ly kill England. Talleyrand's fears proved correct. The result was not peace, but a war that could not stop until Napoleon was defeated.

Horne takes the reader, *au pas de charge*, through all the major battles from Austerlitz to Waterloo. The text is peppered with references to other battles and commanders, from Marlborough to Hitler to Fidel Castro; and while the points Horne makes are often valid and interesting, they would have made more of an impact had there been fewer of them. But he never loses the overall picture of the battle, while at the same time never allowing the reader to forget the ordinary soldier: that poor devil who had marched for days on end to reach the field, and



Portrait of conquest: Napoleon painted by Gerard in 1804

arrived half-starved, his boots tied to his feet with rags. Yet it was soldiers like these who performed the impossible for Napoleon, who inspired them as no commander has done before or since. "A man does not have himself killed for a few sous a day," he said. "You must speak to the soul in order to electrify the man."

But Napoleon never had much to say to the nations he conquered, nor could he understand the fervent nationalism that emerged as a direct result of his heavy-handed domination of Germany. This found expression in the secret treaty of Tauraggen, signed with Russia in 1812: in which Prussia, France's reluctant

ally, became her enemy. Horne points out that when Colonel von Staffenberg tried to persuade Field Marshal von Manstein to join the resistance against Hitler, he used one word: "Tauraggen". It is one example of the complex effect that the Napoleonic Wars were to have on the development of Germany as a modern nation.

The resistance to Napoleon presented by the continental allies was far from united; yet England, safe from Napoleon thanks to Nelson's victory at Trafalgar, always found the gold to finance another coalition. In the end it was inevitable that the allies should grow stronger, while the impetus of the Corsican cannon-ball slowed. The coalitions that faced Napoleon were not as glamorous as he was, but as Horne so rightly points out, they worked.

If the prolonged struggle over Napoleonic hegemony has any lesson, or moral, useful to Britain today, it is perhaps the value of coalitions: Muddled and inefficient as they may be, two World Wars and a Cold War show that, in the long run, they win wars — and possibly prevent them. Powers, however strong, that exist alone, isolated, are usually doomed.

Artemis Cooper is writing a biography of Napoleon.

Bard as you can

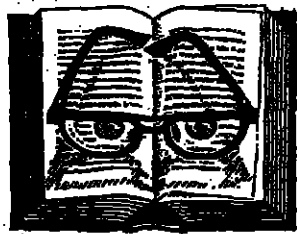
TO DIE is all as common as to live; / The one in choice the other holds in chase, / For from the instant we begin to live, / We do pursue and hunt, the time to die. / First bud we, then we blow and after seed, / Then presently we fall, and as a shade / Follows the body, so we follow death. / If then we hunt for death, why do we fear it? / If we fear it, why do we follow it? ... / For whether ripe or rotten, drop we shall / As we do draw the lottery of our doom.

Who could have written that in 1599 or thereabouts?

It is taken from a text published by Yale under the unapologetic title *Shakespeare's Edward III*, edited by Eric Sams. University presses should be very sceptical about such claims. Anthony Holden was in his review (September 5), and readers should be too.

And yet the inwardness (and chop-logic) of this meditation might indeed be an early sketch for Claudio's "Ay, but to die, and go we, know not where..." in *Measure for Measure*, and for the most famous line ever written. This is pedestrian by comparison, but the attempt to write from inside an individual consciousness, rather than making public statements, seems to me unlike what Marlowe and Kyd, say, were about.

Intriguingly, too, *Edward III* (published anonymously in 1596) contains the line "Lilies that fester smell far worse than weeds", known to us from Sonnet 94, which was not published until 1609. So there is some relationship between



BIBLIOMANE

this play and Shakespeare (and quotation dictionaries ought at least to note the earlier text). The line is not recorded as a proverb, and it is unlikely that Shakespeare would have needed to steal someone else's line for the clinching couplet of a sonnet.

NEARLY half of Shakespeare's plays were first printed in 1623 in the First Folio, which at its unbound or half-bound was "by far the most expensive playbook that had ever been offered to the English public".

Now the Norton Facsimile, which selects the cleanest and most corrected pages from the Folger collection of folios, has been republished (£100). Thirty years on, a new introduction by Peter Blayney retraces a great number of the conclusions of his predecessor, Charlton Hinman, about the composition and printing practices. This is the most studied of all books; yet there are even fewer certainties about the transmission of the texts than we thought. And ideas about the Quarto texts that preceded it are still largely supposition.

THE VISUAL evidence for reconstructing the Globe Theatre, on the South Bank, was also remarkably scant, as is clear from R.A. Foakes's hands-on book *Illustrations of the English Stage, 1580-1642* (Scolar, 1995) and indeed from London Bridge as seen in the catalogue to the Royal Academy's current exhibition, *Living Bridges*. The Globe only ever appears incidentally. Yet despite its daft director, Marie Rylance, who opened with one of the slightest of the plays, *Two Gentlemen*, and insisted on modern dress, so throwing away the historical illusion the Globe is again what Ben Jonson called it, "the Glory of the Banks".

JIM MCCUE

John Mortimer on Frances Flyfield's *Without Consent*

Penny Perlick looks at women and the Mafia

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Robert Winston finds hope for English batsmen in an evolutionary biologist's claim that statistics are not always what they seem

Three strikes and you may have just evolved

In his latest book, *Life's Grandeur*, Stephen Jay Gould tells of major league baseball hitting. Since 1941, baseball hitters have invariably averaged below 0.400 — that is, made four scoring hits out of every ten times at bat. This, he says, means that standards of baseball play, paradoxically, have improved. Those condemned to watch English batting during last summer's Test series may be forgiven for expressing incredulity at my contention that the standard of English batsmanship is more palpably increasing.

In 50 years since the war, no fewer than 17 batsmen have completed a season averaging more than 80 runs in innings. Before the war, only ten batsmen achieved better, with Bradman averaging 115.66 runs in his purple season of 1938. Gould claims that evidence gained from the improbably and grandiloquently named World Series is irrefutable.

Without wishing to deny Gould's analysis (after all, how can a mere Brit possibly comment on an unnatural ballgame where the ball isn't allowed to deviate by hitting the ground?), baseball is his paradigm for Darwinian evolution. To quote Darwin's own words: "I cannot avoid the conviction that no innate tendency to progressive development exists".

The paradox that Gould examines is that there is a general perception of evolution which maintains that, as life evolves, it seems to become increasingly complex. Yet, for example, the simplest organisms, bacteria, are astonishingly and increasingly successful.

LIFE'S GRANDEUR

By Stephen Jay Gould
Capa, £16.99
ISBN 0 224 04132 0

In parallel, most large mammals and "highly specialised reptiles, such as dinosaurs, have died out.

Gould calls on the science of statistics and he uses various models including that of his beloved game, baseball. He points out that variation in life's forms increases with the passage of time. But life, in most of its forms, is largely conserved around a model

point a long way back from the "highest" expression of evolution, mammals and ourselves.

To my mind this is relatively obvious, hardly worth the elaboration. This isn't to say that Gould does not argue his case with his usual elegance and authority. As it happens, the book is interesting in itself, particularly in its description of the ubiquity of plankton and the puzzles of paleontology. But he is at his best in unrelated areas — in his account of his apparently incurable cancer and his story of diving into the medical library to calculate the chances of his own survival based on his statistical research.

But all in all, this perhaps is not Gould's best description of evolution, though the statistical discussion in this book is timely and well explained. Overall, I found Richard Dawkins's depiction of the complexities of evolution far more satisfying. In his recent *Climbing Mount Improbable*, at least English readers of Gould will be reassured that we may be at a higher point in the evolutionary scale than our American cousins, judged by the prowess of baseball, anticipated in the forthcoming summer Test series.

Lord Winston is Professor of Fertility Studies at Hammersmith Hospital.

Stephen Jay Gould will appear on Monday, November 11, at The Times/Dillons Forum at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1. Tickets priced £10, can be purchased through Dillons on 0171-467 1613.



A statistical high: record hitter Joe DiMaggio in the 1940s

A grove of four-posters

Proust's Duchesse de Guermantes drew around her a set of gifted men who wasted away their lives enjoying her company. Jessica Douglas-Horne has discovered an Englishwoman who can easily compete with the Duchesse in this respect — her great-aunt Violet, who was born in 1871.

Violet was one of the daughters of a rich industrialist, James Gwynne, whose business ranged from pumping stations to mechanised sheepshears. She grew up in large houses in the Sussex countryside, and when she was 24 married a Cambridge friend of her brother's, Gordon Woodhouse. Before they were married, she had made it clear to this quiet, rich young man that he was not going to go to bed with her, and on her honeymoon she was already in a rage with him for buying a railway rug that left green marks on her evening dress, so that she had nothing to wear at the Opera in Dresden.

Before long, a friend of Gordon's — Bill, later Viscount Barrington — had joined the household. He soon had the

Derwent May

VIOLET
The Life and Loves of
Violet Gordon Woodhouse
By Jessica Douglas-Horne
Harvill, £20
ISBN 1 85146 269 3

bedroom next to hers (and years later almost got his name immediately following hers, and before Gordon's, on her tombstone). It is fairly clear that he became her lover, though there is no absolute proof.

A third and a fourth man were soon living with them in their houses in Mayfair and Sussex. Max Labouchère, who came from a Huguenot banking family, was the brilliant kind of man Violet needed to make her laugh and think. The *ménage à cinq*, which was never afterwards to be broken except by death, was completed by a young soldier, Denis Tollemache, who had fallen in love with Violet when he was eight. Denis's role was to worship Violet from afar with boyish passion.

There are wonderful tales of them all going out shopping in London with Violet, vying to heap her with splendid presents. And there is an extraordinary description of all their four-poster beds in adjoining bedrooms in their last house, Nether Lyptott in the Cotswolds — Gordon's in pale chintz with birds and flowers, Bill's in Queen Anne bed in white satin and blue plush, Violet's in mellow brick-red with deeper red curtains — and Denis's a "smaller four-poster" in cotton on the next floor. (Max was dead by now, the only one killed in the Great War.)

It is a remarkable story, and one may wonder how all these men — Violet's "superhusbands", as the composer Ethel Smyth named them — accepted the situation so placidly. One forgets, in the roar for Ever More and Ever Better that comes from the media, that people are often contented with very little — if it is exactly what they need.

Yet this is only half the story. Violet, very obviously, was a spirit and imperious woman — but she was something else, too, a superb musician, and a dashing and inventive aesthete. She started playing the piano as a



Woman of many passions: Gordon Woodhouse, Violet and Bill, later Viscount Barrington, at Soythover Manor

small child, and all her life she practised for hours every day. She had wonderful teachers; her interest switched to harpsichords and clavichords and she became the outstanding clavichordist of the day. She started by giving private concerts, but was soon a public performer in great demand. She had a clavichord built into her car, and in her drawing room her instruments stood protected in Paisley shawls.

Her resurrection of the clavichord was a quite new contribution to music, yet one, by the nature of things, already almost obliterated. However, Pavilion Records has just released the first recording ever made of the harpsichord — which was made by Violet herself in July 1920 — and on GEMM CD 9242 some of her silvery, whispering notes come faintly back again.

Jessica Douglas-Horne tells this story brilliantly. It moves on unfalteringly, and as it goes it sweeps into a whole society, while a tolerant humour flickers in the shadows. Gardens and garden fashions weave through the book — it was Bill who concerned himself with those. We see the London music scene at its apogee in 1914, with Chaliapin singing, the Diaghilev dancers dining alongside Shaw and Bennett at great London houses, and "the waltz from Strauss's *Rosenkavalier* the backdrop to every ball or dance".

After the First World War, the story perhaps falters a little. It is like a novel where two-thirds of the way through the novelist does not quite know what to do with the characters — but here, of course, it is the middle-aged characters who are not quite sure what to do with themselves. However, a murder comes to the author's rescue. Gordon's two

sisters are killed by their butler — which was also good luck for Gordon, since they were just about to leave their fortune to a nephew. Incidentally, though Gordon had practically ruined himself with his generosity to Violet, he was not generous to the nephew who had lost his inheritance by a week, and he gave him nothing.

Violet had one last passion, which was evenly distributed between Domenico Scarlatti and Sacheverell Sitwell, who dug out Scarlatti's practically forgotten sonatas for her and made her play them. She died in 1948, and the house Nether Lyptott was left to her own nephew, John Gwynne, who was Jessica Douglas-Horne's father.

Jessica's wonderfully researched book gives Violet a firm and vivid place in our picture of England in the first half of the 20th century. It is also handsomely produced — with a violet ribbon for you to mark your place.

As they surveyed the ruins of the empire after 1945, Western statesmen were unanimous in their determination to eradicate the old causes which, twice in their lifetime, had dragged the world into war. They were anything but unanimous on the way to set about it.

As Max Beloff argues in this powerful essay, when it came to what would best advance this goal there were two schools of thought, each the product of distinctively different historical, legal and constitutional experience. They were not so much complementary as incompatible.

The "continental" approach could be described as structural. The Franco-German blueprint which found expression in the Treaty of Rome assumed that European integration would necessarily involve the subordination of national political processes to supranational institutions. In time, the main attributes of national sovereignty would be ineluctably absorbed into a federal union.

This was not a goal shared by most British politicians, let alone the British people. From the moment of Britain's initial, rejected application to join the European Economic Community, its leaders have painted EC institutions in comforting pastel tones — as mere tools of national policy, to be used by governments for common purposes "when this seemed desirable".

This is the interpretation of European Union that British ministers like to describe as practical and pragmatic. For Lord Beloff, it is quite simply a misrepresentation of the meaning of this "pan-European enterprise". Whether the Establishment was itself deluded, or believed that it had a positive duty not to let the electorate fully into [its] confidence, he argues that the result has been a confidence trick played on voters and, more portentously, on Parliament, the constitution and its basis in the common law.

For cock-up and conspiracy theories alike, he has found plenty of evidence in such public sources as Hansard and political memoirs. As readers are enough to recall the future (over New Zealand butter) need little reminding, when Britain first applied in the 1960s there was far more public anxiety about the fate of Commonwealth preference than about the impact of the Treaty of Rome on British sovereignty. Even Gaiskell, publicly so eloquent that entry would reduce Britain to a "province of Europe" and end "a thousand years of history" (an exaggeration, as Lord Beloff comments in one of the elegant cameo histories which enrich this succinct polemic), would probably have settled in the end for terms of accession that took more account of Britain's Commonwealth ties.

In the light of today's EMU debate, it is wonderful to read that Lord Home believed that

Deaf but how dumb?

he had alighted all possible concern when he reassured the House of Lords in 1961 that the "surrender of sovereignty is restricted to economic matters". What did he think he meant? But then, what in 1972 could have persuaded the lawyer in Geoffrey Howe to refer in the same sentence to "the inescapable and enduring sovereignty of Parliament" and "the precedence of Community Law" under the Treaty of

Rosemary Righter

BRITAIN AND
EUROPEAN UNION
Dialogue of the Deaf
By Max Beloff
Macmillan, £37.50
ISBN 0 333 63432 2

Rome — what, except the politician in him who could comfortably conclude that any conflict that might arise "would be a matter for the government of the day"? It is one of the virtues of this book, however, that it is not only Whitehall and its political masters that Lord Beloff puts in the dock. He stresses other failures of insight, most notably by leaders of the legal profession who ought, he persuasively contends, to have been more alert in defence of the common law that so crucially distinguishes Britain from its continental neighbours.

Yet this tale of two Europes is asymmetrical, because Lord Beloff is ultimately too good an historian, and too knowledgeable a European, to depict the "other side" as a monolith.

From the author of *Presumed Innocent*

SCOTT TUROW THE LAWS OF OUR FATHERS

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John Mortimer - *Sunday Times*

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Haunted by the smell of despair

Erica Wagner

THE NIGHT IN QUESTION

By Tobias Wolff
Bloomsbury, £14.99
ISBN 0 7475 2836 4

CRUISING PARADISE

By Sam Shepard
Socker (Warburg), £15.99
ISBN 0 436 20333 2

Tobias Wolff's short stories turn on these moments of uncertainty and possibility — possibility that is all too often unrealised. His characters are adrift in a world whose events they must attempt, however bizarrely, to control. In *Mortals* a man writes his own obituary; in *The Other Miller* a soldier slips into another's life. There is always some-

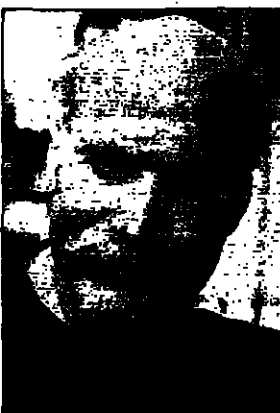
thing out there, something that might, if things were different, be achieved or attained, but circumstances will always conspire to keep his characters in their state of permanent suspense: this same uncertainty powered *This Boy's Life* and *In Pharaoh's Army*, too.

But Wolff never allows his characters' doubts to derail his narrative. A poet of the particular, his precise observations of both emotion and situation keep his tales clear of the sub-Raymond Carver drift that always threatens this kind of story. "This boarding house was worse than the last, unfriendly, funeral, heavy, with the smells that disheartened people allow themselves to cultivate." The smell of the disheartened clings to all these tales, but Wolff's clear vision, allied to his understanding,

makes them more than simply the fragments of the dispossessed.

The world Sam Shepard's characters inhabit is no more knowable, and it is plagued by the same random violence that tips everything out of balance. These stories — some of which are just slices of conversation, overheard as if the reader had a crossed telephone line — wander across the landscape of America, each piece dated and located: "7/91, Kadoka, South Dakota"; "5/16/89, Scottsville, Virginia"; "3/18/90, Tucson, Arizona".

It is one of the strengths of Shepard's writing, as true of his plays as of these fictions, that he captures the sense of a long-vanished frontier. The wordplay in the title of *Hail From Nowhere* is a little heavy-handed — none of these characters really have any roots —



Wolff: poet of the particular

but the violent hailstorm that shatters the narrator's car window is vividly realised, as is the gritty, blinding swirl of *Dust*, placing their narrators squarely in a dangerous, unpredictable world. Many of

ON THE NIGHT in question, a train races towards a drawbridge where the signalman's son is lost inside the engine room. The signalman's dilemma: leave the bridge raised and protect his son from the grinding gears of its machinery — sentencing a hundred passengers to their deaths — or sacrifice his son for the strangers on the train.

In *The Night in Question*, Frank is damaged, a survivor of drug addiction, of a car accident; but his sister Frances knows the damage extends beyond the physical. She recalls their father striking Frank when they were children: "In later years Frances tried to think of a moment when their lives might have turned by even a degree, turned and gone some other way, and she always came back to this instant when her father knew the wrong he had done, was shaken and open to rebuke."

27/11/2015

Another new kid on the block steals Ewing's thunder

Nearly Man in search of success

Patrick Ewing sat in the locker room beneath Madison Square Garden on Tuesday night and hung his head. A giant ice pack was strapped to each knee, but his tired, resigned expression suggested his whole body was aching. For a while, he tried to explain away the New York Knicks' defeat that night at the hands of Shaquille O'Neal and the Los Angeles Lakers, but then he gave up. "That's it, fella," he said. "I'm done."

By then, the arena upstairs was empty. Workmen were already tearing up the wooden court and cleaners were mopping up the dregs of soft drinks and the scattered remains of chicken fingers and ketchup. The new season was still only three games old but, suddenly, the high hopes that Knicks fans had begun to harbour of winning their first National Basketball Association (NBA) championship for 23 years seemed like fond delusion in the face of the Lakers' 98-92 victory.

For Ewing, the reality was particularly stark. His pursuit of the title has become a melancholic epic. This season — after the Knicks splashed out close to \$80 million on providing him with a worthy supporting cast at last — was supposed to represent his best chance yet, but it is already apparent that it will not be enough.

Fate, though, daubed him with failure even before he arrived in New York 12 seasons ago. It cast him as a winner who would forever be associated with losing and, subsequently, all the awards he has won and records he has surpassed have failed to break the spell. Rivalled only by Charles Barkley, now of the Houston Rockets, Ewing is basketball's ultimate nearly man.

It is not that he has had a career short of success. He has won two Olympic gold medals, one as a member of the notorious Dream Team in Barcelona in 1992, and has been picked season after season for the NBA's prestigious All-Star game. Yet, as the years have gone by, his skills have become a measure of the greatness of others.

Inevitably, it was Michael



Jordan, the best player of the modern era, who cast the die in 1982, when he and Ewing were still college kids. In the dying seconds of the last game of the college championship finals, Jordan sank what is still known today as "The Shot" to win the game for the North Carolina Tar Heels over Ewing's Georgetown Hoyas. Ewing's nickname, the Hoya Destroyer, never had quite the same ring again.

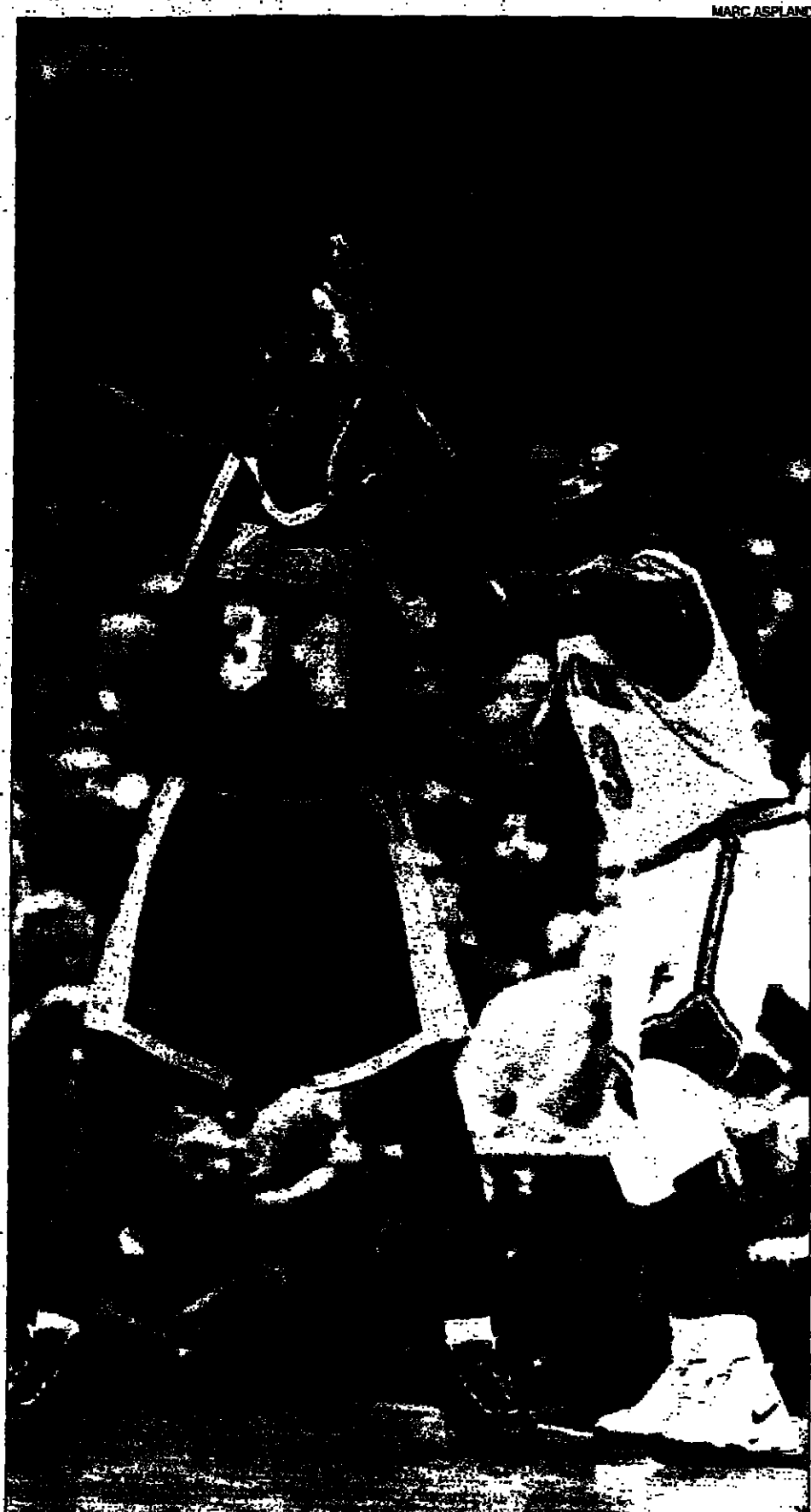
He has broken just about every Knicks record since he joined them in 1985. He has made more appearances for them than any other player, scored more points, made more rebounds, steals and blocks. But always he has been overshadowed in the NBA at large, if not by Jordan, then by the Rockets' Hakeem Olajuwon, by Barkley and, lately, by O'Neal.

Tuesday night's game was billed, predictably, as a showdown between Shaq and Ewing. The media attempted to build it into a grudge match, citing Shaq's alleged lack of respect for his opponent, but the sad truth for Ewing is that the rivalry between the two has already effectively been declared a no-contest.

It is not just that Ewing, at 34, is ten years older than his rival centre and that Shaq's move from the Orlando Magic to the Lakers at the end of last season put him at the heart of a young team with the potential to win the NBA championship this year and to be a serious contender for years to come.

Nor is it really the fact that Ewing came up short when it mattered on Tuesday, sinking just eight out of 22 shots at the basket and scoring 21 points compared with O'Neal's 12 out of 23 successes and 26 points.

'Fate daubed him with failure'



O'Neal has the ball and Ewing, once again, seems powerless in his attempt to get it

O'Neal rebounded, or recovered possession, better and blocked more shots, too.

What really gives him the edge over Ewing, though, is his profile. Ewing is a shy man, unassuming and lacking in charisma, the heart of a team that, as Americans say, is talented at "winning ugly", without panache.

O'Neal, although he humbers around the court, often explodes into spectacular action, slam-dunking with abandon, clawing opponents' shots out of the basket when they already seem to be below the rim. He exudes confidence and easy charm and his style

has brought giant rewards to fit his 7ft 11in, 22-stone frame.

While Ewing has earned \$37 million over the past five years and endorses products like Orange Malt and Nike, O'Neal has signed a seven-year deal with the Lakers that will bring him \$121 million over seven years, has starred in three films and made two rap albums that sold more than a million copies.

Like Jordan, O'Neal is the complete modern basketball player, a heady mix of talent and image, in-your-face confidence and exuberance, the embodiment of American success. Ewing, as the years press

on, is becoming a symbol of failure. Yesterday, a New York newspaper summed it up with its back page picture and headline. The image was one of Shaq soaring to the basket and thrusting the ball through it. In the background, Ewing is looking up at him with a pained, helpless expression on his face. "Shaq and Lack" the headline said.

OLIVER HOLT

TOMORROW
The highly-priced fall guy caught up in the Jets' failure to lift off in the NFL

Improving England are unmoved by pitch switch

CRICKET

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN ADELAIDE

ENGLAND A, undisturbed by their relegation from the Adelaide Oval to a neighbouring nursery ground, completed a six-wicket victory over South Australia, the Sheffield Shield holders, in Adelaide yesterday.

Instead of playing at the Test match venue, the touring team were moved to a neighbouring ground in a pair with a municipal ground in England and forced to change on the outfield. It failed to detract from England's performance, however, as they overhauled South Australia's modest total of 203 for seven in 50 overs with five overs remaining.

"They were not first-class conditions but we weren't going to make any excuses," Adam Holoake, the England captain, said. "There were a few moans from the players because we weren't playing on the Adelaide Oval and we had to change out on the park."

"But I said to them that we would complain about that afterwards. I told them that, if we won the game, they wouldn't even notice it, and there wasn't one complaint in the dressing-room afterwards, so I was pleased with the attitude from the players."

"I understand there are only

a few wickets out there and they have got a long first-class season ahead. You can't expect by right to come and play at the Oval. It is a place where only first-class matches are played and I don't think we should be an exception."

Holoake, after a disappointing performance in the nine-wicket defeat by a New South Wales XI in Tamworth, responded with a superb individual contribution that inspired England to a display far removed from their below-par exhibition in their opening fixture. The Surrey all-rounder claimed three for 44, while Dean Headley and Glen

Chapple both took a wicket apiece in tight opening spells that restricted the South Australia run-rate.

Greg Blewett, a candidate for Australia's problematic No 3 spot in the first Test against West Indies later this month, hit a studied 45 but, without Darren Lehmann's unbeaten 61, made off 59 balls after being dropped on 34 by Michael Vaughan. The Shield holders would have struggled to get near 200.

After the early loss of Vaughan, Mark Butcher and Anthony McGrath, of Surrey, looked untroubled as they steered England to 117 for one in 27 overs.

Then McGrath fell to a brilliant return catch, from Paul Wilson, the pace bowler. Ovais Shah edged a catch to Neilson, the wicketkeeper, off Parker and Butcher, who hit seven boundaries in his 76, was bowled by Lehmann as three wickets fell for 31 runs in six overs.

It left England with new batsmen Craig White and Holoake at the crease, needing a further 58 runs off 17 overs, but the pair responded to the challenge and secured victory with ease.

"It's always nice to get the first win under your belt," Holoake said, confirming that he had had difficulty allocating overs to his bowlers because of the limitations of the scoreboard.

"I thought the bowling won the match for us," Holoake said. "Our fielding wasn't really up to scratch but everybody who bowled kept it tight and we were able to contain a team who has just won the Sheffield Shield. The batting was just a matter of keeping ahead and knocking them off."



Holoake led by example

ADELAIDE SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AUSTRALIA		ENGLAND A XI	
G S Blewett c White b Holoake	45	M A Butcher b Lehmann	76
B A Johnson c Hogg b Holoake	8	M P Vaughan c Parker b Young	14
D D Siddons b White	5	A McGrath c and b Wilson	31
G R Parker c Hogg b Ealham	14	O A Shah c Neilson b Parker	16
J M Vaughan c and b Holoake	13	A J Holoake not out	27
J A Strawther b Holoake	4	C White not out	30
D S Lehmann not out	61	Extras (b 1, lb 7, w 2)	10
T H Neilson c Chapple	30	Total (4 wickets, 44.5 overs)	204
C Scauder not out	30	M A Ealham, W K Hogg, G Chapple, D W Headley and P M Such did not bat	
Extras (b 7, w 5, no b)	18	FALL OF WICKETS: 1-50, 2-117, 3-144, 4-148	
Total (7 wickets, 50 overs)	203	BOWLING: Wilson 10-0-25-1, Scauder 5-1-26-0, Young 10-0-55-1, Johnson 5-0-20-0, Lehmann 7-0-25-1, Parker 7-0-29-1, 26-1, Holoake 10-0-44-3, Such 6-0-32-0	
B E Young and P Wilson did not bat		Umpires: P Angley and D Rebeck	

SNOOKER

Bond ensures steady progress

ENGLAND overcame a stubborn Australia side to record a 10-5 victory yesterday and become the first team to reach the semi-finals of the Castrol Honda World Cup at the Amari Watergate Hotel here in Bangkok (Phil Yates writes).

Assisted by breaks of 45, 55, 71 and 43 from Ronnie O'Sullivan, runs of 96, 55 and 56 from Peter Ebdon and a vital black-ball success for Nigel Bond over Stan Gorski, England were set for comfortable progress when they established a 9-2 advantage.

However, Gorski, his country's amateur champion, produced a 68 break in the twelfth frame to beat Bond while Quentin Hann, 19, in only his second season as a profession-

al, put together a 77 against Ebdon to bring a further measure of respectability to the scoreline.

O'Sullivan, unbeaten in his four previous frames during the match, appeared certain to

Results 48

apply the finishing touch when he led Gorski 48-7 at an advanced stage of the fourteenth frame, but, when he missed a relatively straightforward blue, Gorski earned Australia another stay of execution with a controlled 50 clearance to pink.

Bond opened the scoring in the fifteenth frame with a 51

break, but he missed a black off its spot and Robby Foldvart edged back into contention. Yet another frame could have slipped from England's grasp, but in potting the green, Foldvart cruelly kissed the pink into a baulk pocket.

England's semi-final opponents looked likely to be Ireland, who led Canada, the 1990 World Cup champions, 9-6 after reeling off the first five frames. The Irish moved 8-2 ahead at the start of the concluding session, but the Canadians refused to capitulate. Breaks of 46 and 79 saw Cliff Thorburn beat Fergal O'Brien. Jim Wych defeated Stephen Murphy and a 68 break from Alain Robidoux accounted for O'Brien.

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IN BRIEF
**Rusedski's
advance
continues
apace**

Rob Andrew welcomes England's choice of captain but questions their wisdom in taking on Italy without a reliable goalkicker in the side

game and I have no doubt he will be a forthright leader.

My one reservation is the additional pressure that he may find himself under because of the continued presence of the two men whose form held him back — Guscott and Carling. Both are playing well and people have short memories: if things do not go well for England to start with, it is possible to see a bandwagon developing for the restoration of the long-standing centre partnership which they shared.

But, with England having opted for de Glanville as captain, I was surprised to find Carling picked alongside him for the match against Italy on November 23. Their playing attributes are much more closely aligned and, given the form Guscott has been in this season, I would have thought that greater variety could have been achieved by a different midfield pairing.

It is worth remembering, though, that the international calendar is such that change during a season is almost inevitable. I don't think it

will be possible to go through a schedule — as we did: once on the way to a grand slam — using a bare 15 or 16 players. Given the ferocity of the matches, the potential for injury is high.

I hope that de Glanville and England achieve the early momentum they seek but the lack of a goalkeeper may come back to haunt them. We all want to go out and play open rugby and score as many tries as possible, but the opposition have been hearing on the radio and they don't always let you. There is always a chance, going into any game with a young side that needs to grow together, that you will become involved in a close encounter and one kick may cost victory.

It could be argued that, by retaining Carline, England have

actually given themselves three goalskeepers. Mike Carr worked hard with Dave Aldred and me during the 1995 World Cup in South Africa and turned into a useful kicker in training. However, that progress has not been carried through — he may kick five out of six in his first match, but equally he may miss the same number.

The selectors may have felt obliged to take the risk in the hope that a dependable keeper like Carr or Tim Strupson would come through in the next 12 to 18 months, but that is how long it takes to achieve the necessary consistency. I am not sure that, mentally, either of them have picked up the gauntlet and admitted to themselves that they want to become a leading goalkeeper.

GREG RUSEDSKI continued his recent revival in form by beating Sando Stolle, of Australia, 6-4, 6-3 to reach the quarter-finals of the Stoddart open tennis tournament which climaxed the victory by the Australian-born British No 2 in his likely to take him back into the top 50 when the next list of world rankings is issued by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) on Monday.

Rusedski, who last month reached the semi-finals of a tournament in Singapore and then won in Beijing, has reached the quarter-finals or beyond in nine ATP Tour events this year. He reached the last four in Adelaide, San Jose and Bournemouth and was knocked out in the semi-finals in Sydney and Nottingham.

Captain chosen

Golf: Pia Nilsson, 38, from Sweden, has been appointed to succeed Mickey Walker as the Europe Solheim Cup captain. Nilsson, who was Walker's vice-captain for the match against the United States at St. Pierre, Chepstow, this year is the Swedish Golf Federation's head of coaching and was the obvious successor once Walker, in charge since the inaugural Solheim Cup in 1990, decided to retire. The next match is scheduled to be played at Muirfield Village, Ohio, in 1998.

McRae's charge

Motor rallying: Colin McRae, the 1995 world champion, won the Catalonia Rally yesterday to take the runners-up spot in the final overall standings for this season. McRae turned a three-second overnight deficit on his Subaru team-mate, Oiero Liati, of Italy, into a convincing triumph by four seconds, overtaking his former team-mate, Carlos Sainz, in the overall standings. Tommi Makinen, of Finland, the new world champion, could finish only fifth.

Autissier leads

Sailing: Isabelle Autissier, of France, leads the Vendée Globe non-stop, single-handed round-the-world race after four days, with Pete Goss, of Great Britain, trailing in eighth place after encountering trouble with his power supply overnight. Goss is heading due south down the Portuguese coast after rounding Cape Finisterre.

India lift trophy

Cricket: India beat South Africa by 35 runs yesterday to win the T20 Cup triangular tournament in Bombay. Chasing a modest India total of 220 for seven from 50 overs, South Africa were all out for 185. 47.2 overs, Anil Kumble, the leg spinner, claiming four wickets.

Elite on track

RUGBY UNION

Campese is dropped for Murrayfield

BY MARK SOUSTER

SCOTT HASTINGS and David Campese, respectively Scotland's and Australia's most capped internationals, have both been dropped for the international match at Murrayfield on Saturday. Neither omission is unexpected. Each has a place on the bench.

The absence of Hastings, who has 62 caps, is due to the recall of Craig Chalmers at stand-off half and the need to accommodate Gregor Townsend, the new captain, at outside centre. Campese, who won his 100th cap in Italy last month, is replaced by Joe Roff.

There is also one new can in

David Johnston, the Scotland backs coach, said Chalmers' game had changed "dramatically" over the past 12 months. His ability to control a game and bring it into play those around him has counted more than Townsend's individual brilliance, which would be better suited to the midfield, where the Scots have lacked penetration.

"We are trying to offer a threat across the whole back division and ask questions of the opposition in every area of the field," Johnston said.

[illegible]

Rob Wainwright, Murray Wallace's promotion, after an excellent performance for Scotland A against the touring team last week, is a reward for persistence. Since performing well on Scotland's tour to the South Seas in 1993 his career has been interrupted by a succession of injuries.

Wallace, 29, is a No 7 by nature and his inclusion along with Ian Smith in the back row suggests that Scotland will be looking for quick ball to play a fast, open game.

Ronnie Eriksson partners Townsend, and he and Barry Stewart, the tight-head, make up the Murrayfield front. After winning the first caps in New Zealand, Kevin McKenzie confirmed his fitness playing against Harlequins at the weekend and his

each of the sides named yesterday. Murray Wallace is at blind-side flanker for Scotland, while Andrew Blades makes his debut at tight-head prop for the Australians.

There is no doubt that Townsend would have preferred to stay at No10, the position that he had made his own last season at Chalmers's expense, as Scotland, not always successfully, flirted with a more expansive style. He certainly has not given up hope of returning there but, for now, the pendulum has swung back in favour of the

Apart from Campese, Australia have also dropped George Gregan and Andrew Heath from the side that beat Italy in Padua 40-18. Gregan, who has been injured, loses out to Sam Payne, of New South Wales, while Warwick Waugh and Owen Finegan are also included after joining the tour as replacements.

Herbert and Howard are at centre with Tim Horan on the right wing, and Roff, who impressed in the victory over the Scottish Districts on Tuesday night, on the left. Daniel Mannu is at No 8 because of injury to Michael Brial.

Charvet, the French Barbarians centre, bursts over for one of his team's 12 tries against Cambridge University

French Barbarians turn on the style

Cambridge University .41
French Barbarians76

THE French Barbarians brought a sense of Gallic style and some well-known players to Cambridge but failed to run up 100 points, which would have been symmetrical since the previous year's side celebrated 100 years of Cambridge rugby at Grange Road.

Jean-Pierre Rives, a vice-president of the French Barbarians, was there, his blond hair very windblown. So was a more portly Serge Blanco, who helped the visitors to warm up. The team, whose colours incorporate the blue of Oxford and that of Cambridge, was never in danger of losing to the university but Cambridge, hit by an inordinately large number of injuries this term, showed that their forwards are nobody's pushover.

Richard Bramley scored two tries in eight minutes. It is less important for Cambridge that the French Barbarians scored 12 tries than it is that they scored seven themselves. There was one penalty try each, though no penalties. Richard Elliott worried away at halfback and Russell Earnshaw thrust himself into the thick of things again and again. This Blue

There were several camoes that spoke volumes for the spirit of the visitors, some of whom seemed more Barbarian than the Barbarians. There was, for example, the sight of Marc Cecillon being the first player back to commiserate with Iestyn Lewis.

who was carried off on a stretcher with injured knee ligaments.


Another came with the arrival of Andrew Whitaker as the last replacement for the visitors. This was one of the more popular ones and the announcer entered into the spirit of things by naming him as "Andrit Wit-a-ker" with a Gallic flourish. Nothing matched the smile of pleasure on the face of Dennis Charvet after he had given a try-scoring pass to "Wit-a-ker". On November 23, the French Barbarians will play the South Africans at Brive and one guest player will be Josh Kronfeld, the All Black flanker. There will be few of the flourishes that were shown at Grange Road but then the occasion is unlikely to be one to be celebrated with élan, as this one was.

Games like this are looked at, admired and enjoyed like French food and wine.

FOR THE RECORD

[illegible]

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Treasuring football's heritage

Maybe collecting sporting souvenirs should be an Olympic event. Sports enthusiasts in their millions are nuts about collecting, hoarding and poring over mementoes of past triumphs and forgotten heroes. They are tremendously competitive, sometimes paying a fortune for the most unlikely sporting tokens and, to the despair of many a wife, they rarely throw anything away.

It is big business, with leading auctioneers such as Christie's, Sotheby's and Phillips holding regular sales of sporting memorabilia in Great Britain and New York, where they have often been known to break all records.

Earlier this year in New York, \$500,000 was paid for a baseball. It seemed amazing, even given that this was the ball that Eddie Murray struck to register his 500th home run, and it set a new high for prices paid for chunks of sporting history.

Even Christie's sporting memorabilia expert, Donald Flanagan, was amazed. He



PRESTON NORTH END.

An illustration of the 1888-89 Preston North End team. They were the first Football League champions and the first to do the double



The first table football game, launched in 1884

reckoned the ball was worth \$15,000 at best. But there is no accounting for the obsession of the obsessive collector. In the wonderfully-detailed *Widened Book of Cricket Memorabilia*, John Arlott described the condition of "cricketomania", which he says is incurable though not often fatal.

"All the sufferers," he pointed out "tend to be egomaniacal and to discuss their own collections almost endlessly." Arlott confessed that his own addiction began in childhood with the collection of cigarette cards and autographs.

The men who manipulate the collectables market know that the addiction can begin with the small and cheap memento. While records are being set at the top end of the market in the United States, publications such as *Baseball Weekly* carry endless columns of junk "sporting collectibles" for sale, and full-page advertisements offer you baseballs signed by pitcher Nolan Ryan at \$29 a time.

How TO REFEREE
By W. PICKFORD.
London: Published at 92, Fleet St. MANCHESTER: "Athletic News," W. G. Gove.
PRICE ONE SHILLING.

How the popularity of football grew. W. Pickford's 1906 book on refereeing, early female footballers on cards and the referee is mocked in song

In Britain, football memorabilia is the big growth area. Christie's now holds an annual sale of football memorabilia in Glasgow and FIFA has just brought out a lavishly illustrated history of "1,000 years

of football" that will be certain to have the football collector's mouth watering.

The *Fifa Museum Collection* is a remarkable catalogue of football's half-forgotten heritage, and for any fan of the game it will evoke a mixture of surprise and nostalgia.

The collection was assembled and documented by Harry Langton, an Englishman and sometime journalist, who caught the collecting fever when his wife, Ann, gave him a print that she had bought for five shillings in the 1950s.

He went on to gather paintings and prints, balls and boots, toys and games, ceramics and sculptures, until he had what will soon become the core of an international museum of football.

The collection is now owned by Fifa in partnership with an American company, SPI, and there has been something of a battle over bids to set up a museum of football, with plans up and running from Sheffield, Carlisle and Preston.

However, despite rival bids, including one from France, it is almost certain that the archive will find a permanent home at Preston North End's Deepdale ground.

Bryan Gray, the club chairman, has an agreement to buy the Fifa collection for £1 million, and Preston has applied for a £5.7 million lottery grant to fit out a world-class museum on the ground floor of their newly-built Tom Finney stand.

Preston North End were one of the founder members of the Football League in 1888, and



PLAYING THE GAME WITH THE BOYS.



J. W. HALL

the faces of their unbeaten team, which won the League and FA Cup double in the 1888-89 season, gaze out in triumph from an early photograph in the collection. If Preston get their money (the lottery deci-

sion will be made in February) the museum will open early in 1998.

At one point it was feared that the Langton archive might ship up in Paris, and that England, the home of

the game, might be left without this chunk of its heritage.

But Paris is now heading down a different path. The French, along with Fifa, are setting up an International Hall of Champions, and while it might take any overspill of the Fifa museum collection that cannot be housed in Preston, the Hall of Champions is being described as "an interactive project", attractive to children, rather than a classic museum.

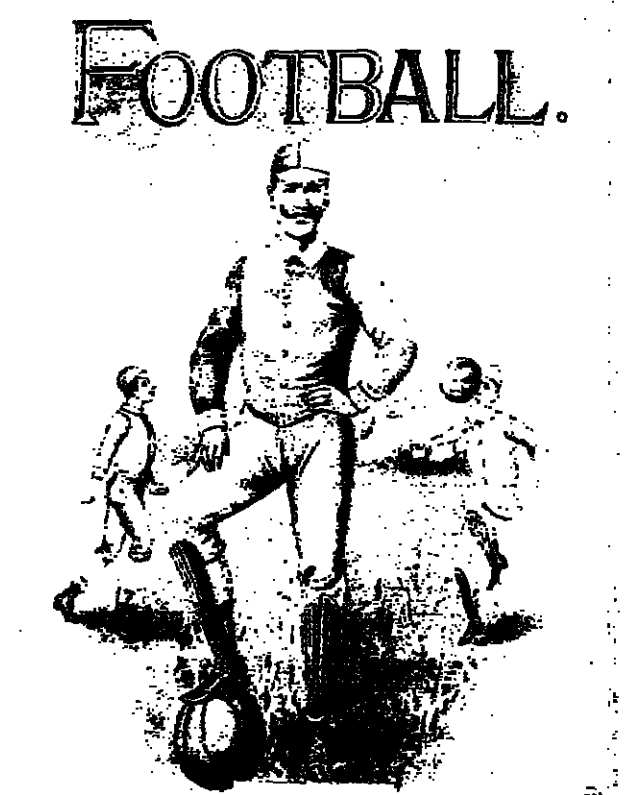
Watch out for an announcement in the next couple of days that the Hall of Champions is destined for Disneyland Paris.

In Paris or Preston, one thing is for sure — the Fifa collection will produce generations yet to come with a taste for soccer memorabilia. It is nothing new. As soon as the world's first football league kicked off in 1888 an entrepreneur called Baines began churning out colourful printed cards, featuring clubs and players and sold at corner shops.

Early music publishers got in on the act, too, with songs that poked fun at referees. And among the items in the Fifa collection is what is believed to be the oldest table football game in the world, made in Preston in 1884.

At 112 years old it has to be the original fantasy football. Now that really is something for the serious collector.

JOHN BRYANT



A German football game from the early 20th century

The Fifa Museum Collection is available from Quintessence Books, 2 Blagdon Road, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4AD. Tel: 0181 949 6087

A late-night peach treat

Beaumarchais. Radio 4, 11.00pm.

One line, plucked at random from the first episode of Craig Warner's serial about the 18th-century French dramatist, gives you the essence of the sparkling whole: "Only the peach bother to demand justice because they're so far from it, they think it still exists." This, you must agree, is a philosophical peach to make the mouth water, the more so because such fruit is not offered all that often in late-night radio drama. Beaumarchais, creator of Figaro, was also an horologist, an extraordinary, womaniser, secret agent, financier and much more. I only hope that Henry Goodman, who plays the eponymous jack of all trades at full pressure, will not run out of steam before the serial ends. Warner has given him a lot more to do.

Radio Lives: The Real Life of Brian. Radio 4, 7.20pm.

So much was written, and said, about Brian Redhead when he died in 1994 that it is only now his friends and colleagues can step back and jointly contribute the definitive judgment on the man, who more than any other, created the enduring style of Radio 4's *Today* programme. Michael Bywater's comprehensive portrait of Redhead ends with a roster of adjectives that I stopped counting when it got to 50. What other broadcaster could have topped such a total? Are they all spoken in praise of him? Judge for yourself: "He had an unassailable sense of his own worth." To him, life was a reflection of Brian Redhead."

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1	WORLD SERVICE
5.30am Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa (Anson) includes at 12.30pm Newsbeat and at 1.15 The Net 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, includes at 5.30-6.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session, with Jo Whaley and Steve Lamacz 9.00 Soundbite. Denny Kelly is joined by XTC's Andy Partridge and Maxi Priest 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00 Mary Anne Hobbs 4.00am GIVE WARNER	4.30am Europe Today 5.30 Europe Today 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 Off the Shelf 7.30 Network UK 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 Composer of the Month 8.55 Health Matters 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Sports International 9.45 Sport 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Off the Shelf 11.30 Meridian On Screen 12.05pm World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Astronaut 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Multitrack 3.05 Sport 3.15 Jazz Now and Then 3.30 Network UK 4.15 World Today 4.30 BBC English 4.45 Britain Today and World Business Report 5.45 Sport 6.30 Assignment 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Words of Faith 7.30 John Peel 8.05 World Business Report 8.15 Britain Today 8.30 Meridian Books 10.30 World Today 10.45 Sport 11.10 Take Five 11.15 Global Gardening 11.30 Changes Best 12.30am Good 12.45 Britain Today 1.30 Outlook 1.55 Words of Faith 2.30 Pick of the World 3.15 Sport 3.30 Focus on Faith
RADIO 2	CLASSIC FM
6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thorne 3.00 Ed Sewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 The News Huddles 7.30 David Allen 8.00 Paul Jones 8.45 Gospel Train, with Carol Pemberton 10.30 The Jamisons, in- cludes at 10.45 What's That Noise? 12.05am Steve Macdonald 3.00 Alex Lester	4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Mike Read 8.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah Shirons 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto. Vaughan Williams (Cello Concerto) 3.00 Janet Calk 6.00 Newsnight 6.30 Scherzino (Cello) 7.00 Meridian Books 10.30 World Today 10.45 Sport 11.10 Take Five 11.15 Global Gardening 11.30 Changes Best 12.30am Good 12.45 Britain Today 1.30 Outlook 1.55 Words of Faith 2.30 Pick of the World 3.15 Sport 3.30 Focus on Faith
RADIO 5 LIVE	VIRGIN RADIO
5.00am Morning Reports, incl at 5.45 Wake Up to Wogan 6.00 The Saturday Programme, incl at 6.55, 7.55 racing preview 8.35 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Mark, incl at 12.35pm Moremusic 2.05 Russia on Five 4.00 Nationwide, incl at 5.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.20 Sports Bulletin 7.35 On the Line 8.05 Moremusic 8.05 Sportsweek 10.05 News Talk, 11.00 Night Extra, with Valerie Sanderson 12.05am After Hours — Early Call with Vincent Hanna 2.05 Up All Night, with Reed Sharp	5.00am Russ 'n' Jon's Breakfast Expe- rience 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky Home 7.00 Paul Coyne (FM) Robin Byrne (AM) 10.00 Mark Forster 2.00am Jeremy Clark
TALK RADIO	RADIO 3
5.00am Early Breakfast 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Anna Re- burn 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Dewhurst, with Peter Dingley 7.00 Moz Day's Sportsweek 10.00 James White 1.00am Ian Collins	6.00am On Air, includes Stelios (Karelis Suite), Egno (Piano Quintet in A minor), Liszt (Prelude and Fugue on Bach) 9.00 Morning Collection. Includes Mozart (Divertimento in D, K139), Chopin (Larghetto), Seaverud (Peer Gynt Suite No 2) 10.00 Musical Encounters. Haydn (Divertimento in C, H 117); G Gabriel (Esquadrille); Poulenc (Concerto for two pianos) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Percy Grainger 1.00pm News: Bel Canto Voices. Tenor Dennis O'Neill's choice of recordings includes Mozart Callas, Rosa Ponselle, Alfredo Kraus, Edita Gruberova and Ugo Benelli (r) 2.00 Bach: Minuet in G. Two pieces for string ensemble by teenage prodigies Mozart and Mendelssohn are contrasted with one of Mozart's mature masterpieces, Mozart (Quintet in B flat, K174; Quintet in G minor, K516); Mendelssohn (Cello in E flat, Op 20) 3.40 The BBC Orchestra, BBC Orchestra, conductor Camo Vandor, Maria Lisciani, cello. Brahms (Variations on a Theme by Haydn, St Antoni-
RADIO 4	
5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 6.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 The Moral Maze (r) 10.00 News; The Hearts and Lives of Men (FM), by Fay Weldon (S/S) 10.00 Daily Service; On This Day (LW) 10.30 Woman's Hour, with Jenni Murray 11.30 From Our Own Correspondent 12.00 News; You and Yours 12.25pm Foul Play. A new panel game. Simon Brett challenges crime writers to solve a mystery 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One 1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping 2.00 News; A Breath of Fresh Air, by Graham Fife. When death stalked the streets of Paris at the time of the French Revolution, nobody was safe — not even the greatest chemist of his day 3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift 4.00 News; ABE Katselioscope. Paul Allen talks to the actress Jane Lapotnik about her one- woman show about	Shakespeare. Plus a review of A Royal Banquet at the West Yorkshire Playhouse 4.45 Short Story: The Unfinished Tapestry 5.00 PM 5.05 Shipping 5.55 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 And I'm the Queen of Sheik 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers (LW) 7.20 Radio Lives. See Choice 8.00 Analysis: Small Change? An examination of the economics of capitalism 8.45 The New Recruit 9.00 Does He Take Sugar? 9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) 9.59 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Adventures in the Skin Trade, by Dylan Thomas (4/5) 11.00 Beaumarchais. See Choice (1/5) 11.30 Ad Lib (FM) (r) 11.30 Today in Parliament (LW) 12.00 News Inc 12.27am approx Weather 12.30 The Late Book: First Church of the New Millennium, by Bryan Hughes, by Bryan 12.48 Shipping 1.00 As World Service

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 46

LEDEN

(b) The language of a nation, people or race; a tongue. A Celtic or early Romanic pronunciation of the Latin *Latina* Latin was confused with the native *leden* language and *lude* people. Spenser, *Fairie Queene*, 1596: "He was expert in prophesies. / And could the leden of the Gods unfold."

LAPISE

(c) To yelp or swerve, like a rabbit. From the French *glapir, clapi* (said of a rabbit) to yelp. "If the Hound stick well upon the scent, then let him hold him short for fear that he lapist (that is open)."

MUTULE

(a) One of a set of flat blocks below the corona of a Doric cornice. The modillion proper to the cornice in the Doric order: a projection upon the soffit of the Doric cornice. From the Latin *mutulus* a mullion. "The mutules in the Doric answer to the triglyphs, which are under them."

MANSUETE

(c) Gentle, mild, tame, not wild or fierce. From the Latin *mansuetus*, past participle of *mansuere* to tame, from *manus* a hand + *suescere* to accustom. "He kept this fish in a pond, and delighted much to feed him with his own hand, the fish being very mansuete."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 f7 breaks through, e.g. 1... Nxb2 2 Qxg7+ Ke8 3 Qh8+ Bb5 4 Qxh8 winning or 1... Bxf6 2 Bg4 Qe7 3 Qh3 is deadly and finally 1... gxb2 2 Qg8 is mate.

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REVIEW

Edgar is taking buckets of money to promote tele-medicine in China; he favours the hands-off approach in all things, actually even including sexual relations with his taciturn wife. When somebody mentioned a possible knight-hood to him, he smiled and said, "Not in my hands" — which at least shows how consistent a character can be.



only to discover that Colin Firth with his frilly wet shirt, was the nation's favourite.

This was a blow, I can tell you. I am always defending television on the grounds that, even if it entertains us mercilessly, at least it gives us a historical perspective. Many people wouldn't ever consider Cecil Rhodes, or haute couture in the 1920s, or the home front in the Second World War, if it weren't

Last night's TV60 contribution, *Watching the Box* (BBC1), did not supply much cause for optimism, but it brought new twists to the familiar story of telly-watching in this country, so blessed them for that. The famous Coronation bonanza, for example, was mainly told from the perspective of a man who had expressed television repugnance. Other contributors were a woman who owed her life to *Dr Kildare* (it's a long story), two men who phone each other after *EastEnders* and an obsessive Sheffield teenager called Nicole who couldn't talk to the camera without watching the telly at the same time.

"If I do record something..." Nicole began, not looking at the camera, and then dried up, absorbed in Oprah Winfrey. "Hold

B it of a shock seeing how rich Roger Whitaker is, wasn't it? Not permitted to watch *Absolutely Fabulous* (some sort of embargo), I watched *Modern Times* instead on BBC2, and found that ostentation (if not skint) was a common theme anyway. John Alexander's *The Selling Game* concerned three antiques dealers, one of whom had a special relationship with that famous whistling star. When Whitaker buys a new house, he just asks Lady Pamela Pidgeon (of Brampton House) to furnish it throughout with top-wack furniture. Not many people can afford that. Novelty whistling is clearly a lot more profitable than it looks.

Of the three quite different dealers, Lady Pamela was the most astonishing figure, because she offers a full service, like an up-market version of John Lewis. She set-dresses the homes of parvenus, starting with an empty room. Alan Clark — who famously disparaged the sort of people (such as Michael Heseltine) who buy furniture instead of inheriting it — would run from this woman as though pursued by a swarm of bees.

But Lady Pamela can't afford to be snobby. Her belief is that you should treat people equally, because you don't know how much money they've got. Last night she furnished a new house for a wholesale tyre merchant (a six-figure sum was involved) and just beamed proudly through her blue eyeliner at him, banned him from importing his telly into the room (he defied her, of course) and dropped the name of her business as often as she possibly could.

ne

1

am PRO STARS (5478007)
THE BIG BREAKFAST (38804)
HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER (18465)
SCHOOLS: MIDDLE ENGLISH 9.45
THE MATHS PROGRAMME 10.05
SCIENTIFIC EYE 10.25
GEOGRAPHICAL EYE 10.45 LE PETIT
MONDE DE PIERRE 11.00 CLUCHE
SOUL IS CANAN 11.20 FILM AND
VIDEO SHOWCASE 11.40 THE
SPANISH PROGRAMME
HOUSE TO HOUSE (Teletext) (85256)
pm BACKDATE (t) (Teletext) (s) (58200)
SESAME STREET (s) (5352620)
FILM: Kippes (1941, b/w) starring Michael
Redgrave and Phyllis Calvert. Film
version of H.G. Wells novel about a
doctor's assistant who inherits a large
sum of money. Directed by Carol Reed
(Ceefax) (83201113)
FIFTEEN-TO-ONE (Teletext) (s) (736)
4.30 COUNTDOWN (Teletext) (s) (820)
5.00 RICKY LAKE (Teletext) (s)
(5299668) 5.45 ANTON MOSIMANN
(Teletext) (128482)
NEW GAMEMASTER (Teletext) (113)
HOLLYOAKS (Teletext) (s) (465)
CHANNEL 4 NEWS (Teletext) (204736)
THE SLOT (255804)
DOSH Adam Faith offers advice on how
to negotiate a satisfactory redundancy
package, how to make a living as a party
planner, and how to choose the right
mobile phone (Teletext) (s) (3715)
DESIRE In the last of the series, husband
and wife designers Suzanne Clements
and Inacio Ribeiro talk about their 1997
spring-summer collection. Plus, a
behind-the-scenes look at the model
agency Elite (Teletext) (s) (8465)
DISPATCHES A report on the nature and
effects of CS gas (Teletext) (s) (537858)

HOUSE TO HOUSE (Teletext) (85256)



Eason and Knapman (9.45pm)

CLUCHE LLOYDS BANK CHANNEL 4
FILM: HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER
Bantams The relationship between two
football fanatics. With Robert Eason and
Kevin Knapman (Teletext) (s) (366945)
FILM: Beauty and Dentist (1988) with
Dinah Manoff and Julie Duffy. Comedy
thriller about a policewoman assigned to
protect a murder witness. Directed by
Neal Israel (Teletext) (760216)
FOUR-NATIONS: CONTINENTAL
PASSIONS (s) (310552)

(4877175)

4.50 FILM: Gold Diggers of 1937
(1936, b/w) Busby Berkeley musical with
Dick Powell and Joan Blondell (736750)

UK LIVING

6.00am Fulroy (4456552) 7.00 Agony
(4832129) 7.30 Young and Fearless
(6063281) 8.20 Ken Horn (5427028) 8.55
Turnabout (7887113) 9.35 Call the Doctor
(2634754) 10.00 Super Fiesta (3581904)

220	Young and Restless (E22530G)	11.55
736)	Brookside (16-4330200)	12.25pm

Pursat (9332358) 12.60 Garmelle
 (9395651) 1.04 Rolinda (967200) 2.30
 Agony (9432910) 3.00 Live at the
 (6041718) 1.00 The Sound of
 (9332923) 4.00 Tallabout (9679845) 8.05
 Lingo (9508037) 5.30 Lucky Laddies
 (9533026) 6.00 Bewitched (9425939) 8.30
 Ready, Steady, Cook! (6507075) 7.50
 Brookside (969529) 7.30 Super Fun
 (9432829) 7.40 The 1000th
 6.00 General Practice (9728291) 9.00
FILM: Prescription for Murder
 (9420910) 11.00 Emmanuelle Now!
 (6008945) 11.00 London Sex Pics II

FAMILY CHANNEL
 5.00pm Blockbusters (70231) 5.30 Treasure
 Hunt (95465) 6.30 Catchphrase (65017) 7.00
 Through the Keyhole (12277) 7.30 Hart to

587) Bergerac (86656) 10.00 Ruth Ferrell
16133 11.00 Rising Dime (71910) 11.30

MTV
The 24-hour music channel features

news, reviews, live concert coverage, V.I.P.
news and the latest music video charts

VH-1

The video hits channel. Classic rock and pop videos, and the best new releases.

7:00 AM

ZEE TV

10:00 AM *Jaagruon 7.30* *Laxmi-Ek 8.30* *Business 9.00* *Hi Hi Hi 10.30* *Shau 11.00* *Banega Aapki Bani 12.00* *Chitraon 12.30* *Inspector 1.00* *Hindi Film 4.00* *Chitraon 4.30* *Chitraon 5.00* *Screen Ho 6.00* *Purva Ho 6.30* *Zee 7.00* *7.30* *Ten Bin Chup Aam Bin Chup 7.30* *Cinemagic 8.00* *News 8.30* *Arca 9.00* *Jail 9.30* *Hawarden 10.00* *Cometback 10.30* *Chitraon 11.00* *Zee Home Show 11.30* *12.00* *Chitraon A.K. Farnesh*



BOXING 46

Is Holyfield putting too much on the line against Tyson?

SPORT

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 7 1996

BASKETBALL 47

Giant rewards provide little consolation for Knicks' star turn



Former captain retains his place as Rowell gambles on Catt's goalkicking

England stay loyal to Carling

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THERE are few golden rules in rugby union, but England managed to break two of them yesterday when they named their team to play Italy at Twickenham on November 23, a match that is designed to begin a new era — of professionalism, of captaincy and of attitude.

They also failed to grasp the nettle posed by their choice of Phil de Glanville as captain. Will Carling was retained, as a partner to de Glanville at centre, despite the clear inference from Jack Rowell, the coach, that his international future was limited because he and de Glanville represent players of a similar ilk. Yet both will play in preference to

Border skirmish 46

Jeremy Guscott, the form centre of this season.

Missing, too, is a recognised goalkicker — a clear breach of one of those immutable truths. Moreover, Mike Catt, the player who will be first-choice kicker, is being invited to develop into the pivot of the side at stand-off half with an international novice as his partner — again in defiance of established practice. This is no reflection on Andy Gomarsall, one of four new caps, but his play at scrum half will be critical to Catt's success.

Having plumped for Catt at stand-off, the selectors may just as well have gone the whole hog and picked the Bath midfield — de Glanville, Guscott and Catt — intact. Now, however, de Glanville will play with the figure of the



Centres of attention: de Glanville, left, and Carling, the present and past England captains, prepare for action during training at Bisham Abbey yesterday. Photograph: Des Jensen.

man who led England into 59 games, some say Carling will be there as a crutch but de Glanville is old enough and wise enough not to need it.

"Centre was a difficult choice," Rowell said at Bisham Abbey. "Both Will and Jerry are playing well and we have edged Will's way. Jerry's on the bench and, considering all the work he has put in, I don't think he intends to stay there. He wants to play well for Bath, for England and for the Lions next summer... it's a case of watch this space."

Guscott, concealing his disappointment admirably, said: "I can't say why I'm not in the side. The best thing I can do is to carry on playing as well as I can and hope opportunities will arise. I'm enjoying my rugby so much this season — it's exciting, it's great to play in and great to watch; long may it continue. It's great for Bath to have so many representatives in the side — it would have been nice if I had been there as well."

However, it was made plain that the side against Italy, barring unforeseen circumstances, will go on to play the week after against the New Zealand Barbarians which, though not a full international, will be as demanding as

any this season. England may get away with an inconsistent kicker against Italy (who, in the form of Diego Dominguez, are notably well blessed in that department) but they will not against a team that approximates very closely to a full All Blacks XV.

The overall selection of the back division suggests a belief that England can drop immediately into the fluid running style that has been the hallmark of Bath and Wasp for the past couple of seasons. Yet it will be surprising if they do so, however ambitious management and players are to leave the traditional, set-piece-based game associated with English rugby behind — the international arena does not allow for instant metamorphosis.

That having been said, all four of the newcomers offer tremendous potential. Tim Stimpson, of Newcastle, comes in at full back. Adedayo Adebayo joins his Bath colleagues for a long-awaited cap on the left wing. Gomarsall confirms his promise at half back and Simon Shaw, of Bristol, wins the cap at lock

TEAM

ENGLAND: T R G Stimpson (Newcastle); J M Slighthead (Bath); P R de Glanville (Bath, captain); W D C Carling (Harlequins); A A Adebayo (Bath); M J Catt (Bath); A Gomarsall (Wasp); G C Rowntree (Leicester); M P Regan (Bristol); J Leonard (Harlequins); B B Clarke (Richmond); M O Johnson (Leicester); S D Shaw (Bristol); L B N Dallaglio (Wasp); T A K Rodder (Northampton). Replacements: R Hardwick (Coventry); P Greening (Gloucester); C M A Sheehy (Wasp); K P P Braden (Saracens); J C Guscott (Bath); A King (Wasp).

that might have been his earlier but for serious leg injuries that at one time threatened his playing career. There are six changes, seven if Catt's move from full back is counted, from the team that completed the five nations' championship against Ireland last season.

There may well be an eighth if Mark Regan, the Bristol hooker, does not play. A chipped bone at the base of his thumb, a significant injury for the man who throws into the lineout, has kept him out of action for three weeks and the plaster is not due to be removed until next week.

Should he withdraw, Phil Greening, of Gloucester, will win his first cap and Richard Cockerill, of Leicester, will join the replacements.

One of those changes may mark the end of Rory Underwood's international career. Few have waited longer, or been more deserving on form, than Adebayo for his debut but his introduction completes a painful transition for England's most-capped player. Underwood's hopes of being elected captain of Leicester were dashed in the summer, he was dropped from the national training squad and, last month, left out of his club's first XV. Now, for the first time in a career going back to 1984 and allowing for squad changes in World Cup years, he is omitted after 85 games and 49 tries.

Catt's move to stand-off allows the long-striding Stimpson to purvey his attacking skills for the first time, despite his second division status with Newcastle. It will be Catt's third attempt at the position, after a successful flirtation against Western Samoa during the World Cup

and a less successful one against South Africa a year ago. Brian Ashton, his club coach, believes him to be the best attacking player in the country but doubts over his ability to organise and control a game remain — even, apparently, in the mind of Rowell.

"Having picked Catt I would hope he will stay there until Christmas at least," the coach said. The merits of Alex King, who is probably a more dependable kicker than Catt, Stimpson or Carling, were considered, as were those of Nick Greenstock at centre, but he must remain, for now, among the replacements, where there is no place for either the Northampton scrum half, Matthew Dawson, or his club partner at stand-off, Paul Grayson, whose 64 points propped up England's 1996 championship. How quickly sporting fame can be erased.

£5m move for Zola booked by Chelsea

By BRIAN GIANVILLE

GIANFRANCO ZOLA may become the third Italy international to sign for Chelsea. Riccardo Sogliano, the Parma general manager, is reportedly due to travel to London imminently to do the deal for £5 million.

Yesterday Zola, 30, was playing when Italy were beaten 2-1 in Sarajevo by Bosnia, the latest hiccup in a curiously ill-starred international career. Despite his outstanding gifts as ball-player, finisher and creator, Zola has never quite established himself in the national team.

During the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States, Arrigo Sacchi, the coach, did not call him on until the game against Nigeria in Boston, and then only as a substitute. Zola was quickly sent off. Last summer, in the European championship, he missed a penalty against Germany.

Zola was signed in 1989 by Napoli, where, succeeding his idol, Diego Maradona, in the No 10 shirt, he became a star. Parma bought him in 1993, using him in a more advanced position from which, in his first two seasons, a master of free kicks, he scored 37 goals. Last summer, however, Parma appointed a new coach in Carlo Ancelotti and Zola was obliged to play behind the front line, which no longer suits him. He could be the perfect partner for Gianluca Vialli at Chelsea, who also have another Italian, Roberto Di Matteo, in their midfield.

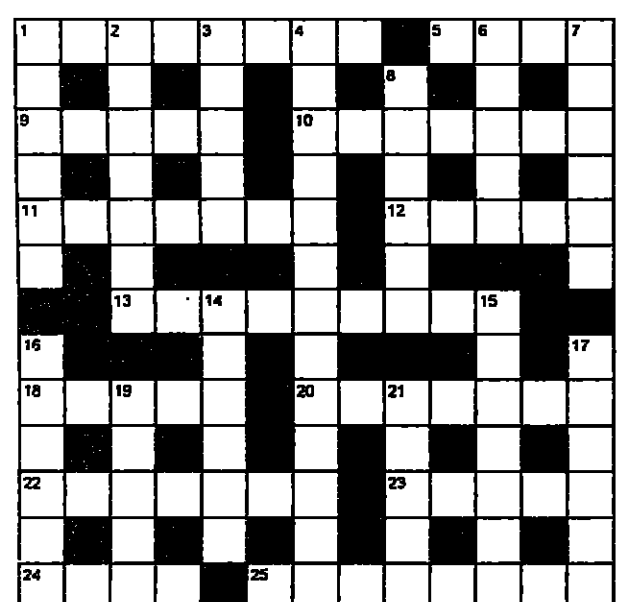
Italy's defeat yesterday increased the pressure on Sacchi and there is speculation that he will not be in charge for the World Cup qualifying match against England at Wembley on February 12.

Middlesbrough are struggling to keep Emerson, their Brazil midfielder, who has found it difficult to settle in the North East. Emerson returned to Brazil this week and, after reports linking him with a move to Barcelona, there are rumours that he may not return to Tyneside.

Viv Anderson, the Middlesbrough assistant manager, said: "There have been some problems but there has never been any suggestion of a walk-out. I'm going to talk to Emerson today and find out what is happening. As far as I'm aware, he'll be back on Tuesday, as expected."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 933 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



- ACROSS**
- Opinion tester (8)
 - Dining-hall (4)
 - Pungent bulb (5)
 - Little drop of liquid (7)
 - Spanish sailing-ship (7)
 - Goal-like man (Gk. myth) (5)
 - Emancipation movement (6,3)
 - Rage (5)
 - Prepare card-pack; move slowly (7)
 - Prospero's daughter; Uranus moon (7)
 - See 1 down
 - Turnip (dial.); sounds like sort of tide (4)
 - Sphagnum (4,4)
- DOWN**
- 1,2,3ac "The — and the —" (O'Casey) (6,5)
 - Humbled, stricken (4,3)
 - Char (5)
 - Visible sign of being ridiculous (3,2,4,4)
 - Break out (5)
 - Spanish wine (6)
 - Little piece (of food) (6)
 - Of the sea; a soldier (6)
 - An ox; a bison (7)
 - Crocodilian; tax-shelter islands (6)
 - Population count (6)
 - Snuff oneself (5)
 - Knock over (5)

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DOWN: 1 Tirade 2 Tipped 3 Slender 4 Landing 5 Backworm 6 Sediment 11 Filippant 12 Uncle Joe 13 Baldrick 14 Newbolt 15 Siltum 16 Umlaut

Lawton leaves behind priceless memories of game's golden age

Brian Glanville recalls seeing perhaps the finest England centre forward of all

WAS there ever a finer centre forward than Tommy Lawton, who died yesterday at the age of 77? One more dangerous in the air, one more lethal on the ground? Distance, it is true, lends enchantment. He played, and scored twice, in the first professional game I ever saw as a ten-year-old: England against Scotland at Wembley in January 1942.

Stanley Matthews was on the right wing, the polymath Denis Compton on the left. The war-time forward line, usually led by Lawton, was perhaps one of the finest England has ever had, but results were unimpressive. So Lawton, officially, scored 22 goals in 23 international games. No mean record, despite the fact that his best years were excluded.

England put eight goals past Scotland at Maine Road in 1943, four by Lawton, one hooked over his head while sitting on the ground. He did, in fact, score four times for England in a full international, against Portugal in Lisbon in May 1947: a game in which England finally used both Matthews and Tom Finney on the wings.

Born in Bolton in 1919, Lawton worked briefly at Walker's Tannery, like Nat Lofthouse after him, but it was to Burnley that his protective grandfather brought him as a boy.

At 16, Lawton was in the Burnley side in the second division. He had been made to perfect his shooting by run-

ning round and round the ground, pausing and pivoting to hit all the Bs in the pitch-side advertisement. Burnley's Beers are Best. His heading he practised with the ball hanging, at different heights, from a rope.

From Burnley, coveted by numerous leading clubs, Lawton moved, in December 1936, to Everton, where it was assumed that he would succeed another legendary header of the ball, Dixie Dean. Dean in fact received him



Lawton: lethal

Fellow greats pay tribute

TOM FINNEY, who played with Tommy Lawton for England, described him yesterday as "one of the greats". Finney said: "Tommy was a prolific goalscorer — look at his record of 22 goals in 23 games for England. And that was despite losing his best years due to the war. Tommy will go down as the best centre forward I ever played with in the England side."

Sir Stanley Matthews said: "He was one of the great centre forwards. He was sharp and, if he had a chance in the goalmouth, you could guarantee, before you blinked, that it would be in the back of the net."

scoring twice for Great Britain against the Rest of Europe.

When the war began, he reflected that, if he could play for England, he could die for England, but found himself, like many leading footballers, in the Army Physical Training Corps, playing for England — and for Aldershot.

In 1945, Everton sold Lawton to Chelsea for £11,500 and he played in their sensational game against Moscow Dynamo, when he headed a typically spectacular goal in a 3-3 draw. Lawton went on to score other dramatic goals for Chelsea, but he did not stay long.

Early in the 1947-48 season he surprisingly joined Notts County, of the third division south, in the first £20,000 transfer. Subsequently, he moved to Brentford, in 1952, Arsenal in 1953 and to Tottenham as player-manager in 1955. In 1957, he returned to Notts County as a manager but lasted only a year. In 390 League appearances, he scored 231 goals and won a championship medal with Everton in 1939, scoring 34 goals in 38 matches.

How ironic that, today, such a centre forward, who seemed to hang in the air, weightless for his headers, would cost and make millions. Lawton, on retirement, slid into poverty and even appeared in court for various minor offences. He was leniently treated. Life itself, after all, had been less lenient to him.

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